

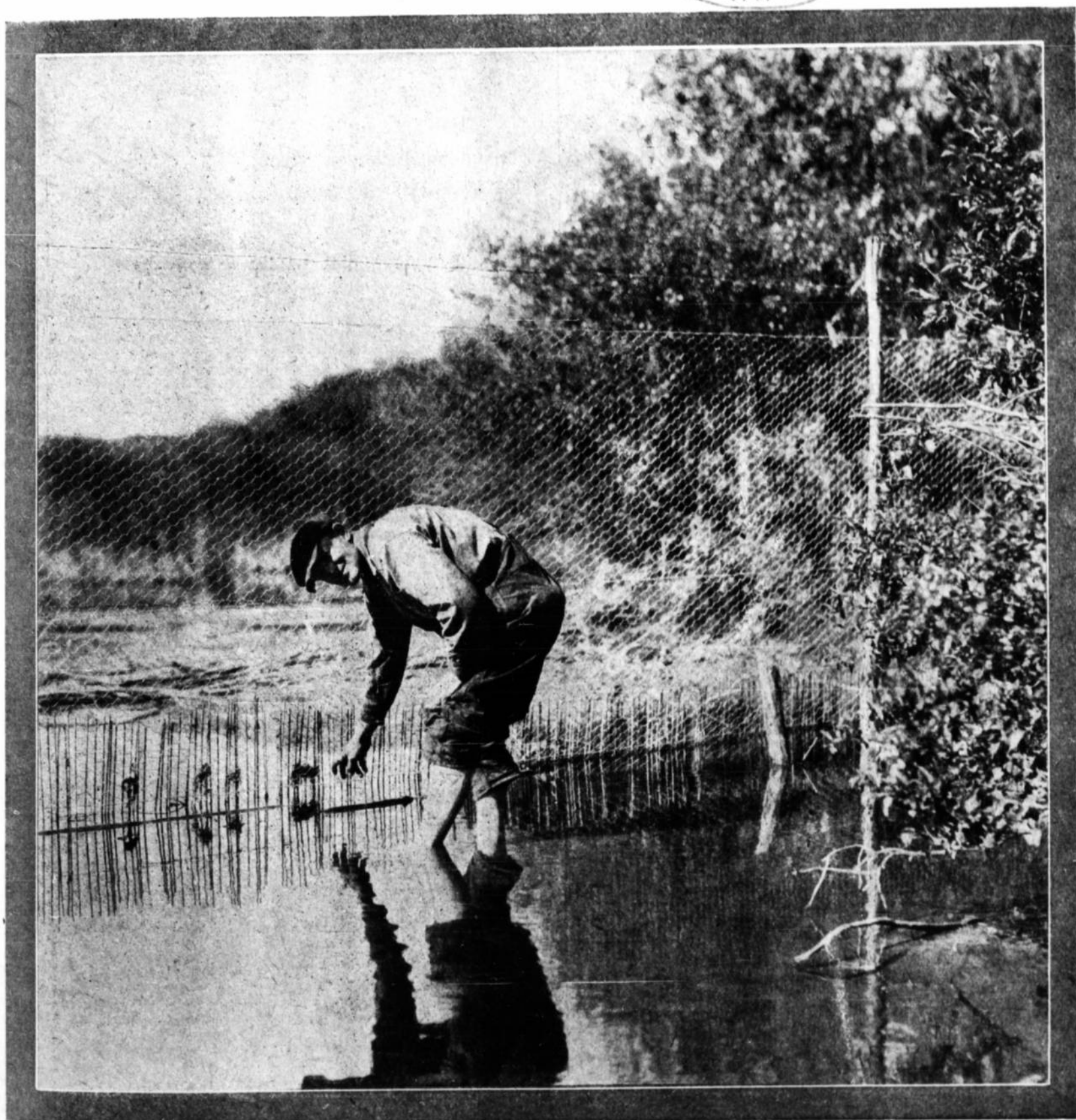
THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE

Organization · Education · Co-operation

Winnipeg, Man.

Circulation over 75,000

October 15, 1924



INSPECTING FENCE ON A MUSKRAT FARM

The Only Weekly Farm Journal in the Prairie Provinces

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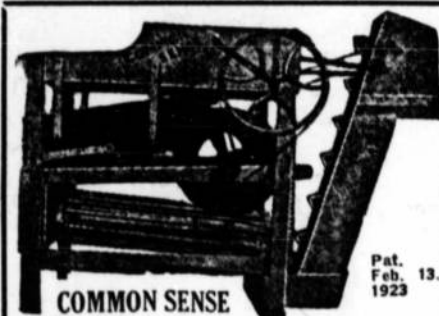


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WHEN WRITING TO ADVERTISERS,
PLEASE MENTION THE GUIDE

The Size of the Universe

By Watson Davis, Managing Editor, Science Service, in
New York Times Current History

IT is hard to arrive at an appreciation of the immense distances that stretch out on every side of the earth. The sun is a very great distance away, some 92,900,000 miles. The earth is less than 8,000 miles in diameter. Yet the nearest star, Alpha Centauri, is 275,000 times more distant than the sun. Radio waves and light travel at the same speed, 186,000 miles per second, practically instantaneous so far as ordinary broadcasting and seeing are concerned, yet when we look up into the heavens we must realize that it takes time to see. Light from that nearest star requires four and one-third years to reach the earth.

The latest announcements from the Harvard College Observatory stimulate the imagination. Investigations there under Dr. Harlow Shapley, director, have been centred upon the Magellanic Clouds, great masses of stars and other heavenly bodies far beyond the Milky Way. These are visible only in the southern hemisphere, and they are named after the great explorer and navigator, Magellan, who described them and also left his name on the southernmost straits of South America. The Harvard astronomers have discovered that the bright stars of the Magellanic Clouds are larger and brighter than any of the giant stars heretofore known to astronomers. The planet, Jupiter, swings around the sun nearly 400,000,000 miles further out from the sun than the earth. Yet if one of the Magellanic Cloud stars were set down with its centre at the sun, five of the planets—Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars and Jupiter—would be engulfed within it. Through a prolonged study of the variable stars in the small Magellanic Cloud, it has been possible to determine its distance and its diameter. It has been found that it takes light 6,500 years to go from one side of it to the

other. It takes light 100,000 years to travel from the cloud to the earth. If our sun were placed in the Magellanic Cloud, even the most powerful and modern telescopes known to man would be unable to bring it within human vision. In the Magellanic Cloud there are undoubtedly many hundreds of stars just as large and bright as our sun, all undetectable by the largest telescope on earth.

Our Sun Just a Spot

The studies of brightness on the Harvard photographs, which were made at the Arequipa (Peru) station of the Harvard Observatory, embrace only to the stars of the eighteenth magnitude. More than half a million stars that are at least a hundred times as luminous as our sun are contained in the small Magellanic Cloud. A few hundred of them have each more than ten thousand times the solar brightness. The very brightest of the super-giants are shown by photographs of their spectra to be of the redder classes of color, which means that the intensity of light emission must be low. Thus, to account for such high total brightness, the dimensions must be exceedingly great, and it is calculated that the diameters of the largest super-giants are nearly a thousand million miles. This is at least three or four times the diameter of Betelgeuse, and is very probably very near the maximum diameter possible for a luminous star.

The small Magellanic Cloud is known to be receding from the galaxy with the enormous velocity of a hundred miles a second. Dr. Shapley points out that almost certainly both the clouds of Magellan were in the Milky Way at a time more recent than the Paleozoic era and were then indistinguishable from the other star clouds of the Milky Way.

By another scientist we are told that space is limited, although it is boundless. Dr. Ludvig Silberstein, of Rochester,

NEW LAMP BURNS 94% AIR

Beats Electric or Gas

A new oil lamp that gives an amazingly brilliant, soft, white light, even better than gas or electricity, has been tested by the U.S. Government and 35 leading universities and found to be superior to 10 ordinary oil lamps. It burns without odor, smoke or noise—no pumping up, is simple, clean, safe. Burns 94% air and 6% common kerosene (coal oil).

The inventor, T. D. Johnson, 579 McDermot Ave., Winnipeg, is offering to send a lamp on 10 days' FREE trial, or even to give one FREE to the first user in each locality who will help him introduce it. Write him today for full particulars. Also ask him to explain how you can get the agency, and without experience or money make \$250 to \$500 per month.

For Homes Without a Bath

Every such home should have one of the new Universal Folding Bath Tubs. No plumbing required. Can be moved easily from one room to another, because mounted on casters. Folds up when not in use. Solves the bathing problem, in towns and country. Moderately priced. Write for folders. We also make indoor chemical closets.

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N.Y., has announced the radius of the universe at 114,000,000 light years. This result was deduced from the observed shift toward the blue and toward the red of the spectrum lines of 16 globular star clusters, two Magellanic clouds and one nebula, the most distant objects visible all over 33,000 light years away. Such a shift, called the Doppler effect, has been interpreted by astronomers as indicating that the stars were moving toward or away from us. But a small part of it may be due, according to Einstein, to an apparent slowing down of the period of light waves from very massive sources.

670 Quintillion Miles

Dr. Silberstein based his calculations on the conception of the Dutch astronomer, De Sitter, who regards the universe as a sort of sphere of four dimensions, three being space dimensions and the fourth being time. Such a spherical universe has no boundary and any point in it can be equally well regarded as the centre. Lines starting out straight in all directions from a point extend to the most distant plane, called the polar, and then return to the original point. The straightest line in such a spherical universe is a closed curve of very great but still finite total length. Dr. Silberstein figures that the greatest possible distance between two points by the straightest line, which is one-half that total length, is 180,000,000 light years. A light year is 63,000 times the distance of the sun from the earth, or six trillion miles. You would not run against a wall when you reached that limit, but if you continued straight ahead in the same direction you would be approaching your starting point from the other side.

These ideas seem strange as applied to the universe, yet they are familiar as applied to our earth. The earth's surface is unbounded, yet finite and measurable. The straightest line on the earth is a great circle. Start out from any point in any direction and travel as straight as you can and you can never get more than 12,000 miles away, for if you walk further in the same direction you get nearer home. The earth's surface has no end and no centre, for it is curved spherically in the third dimension. So the universe, according to the relativity theory, is curved spherically in the fourth dimension. Like the earth, the universe is not a perfect sphere, but is irregular—corrugated as it were—owing to the mass and motion of the matter it contains. The length of the radius of curvature of the universe in miles, as calculated by Dr. Silberstein, is represented by the figure 67 followed by nineteen zeros.

Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Co. Ltd.

(Owned and Controlled by the Agriculturists of Saskatchewan)

HEAD OFFICE - REGINA

One of the main objects of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company has been to give the farmer selling a wagon load of wheat a price as nearly equal as possible to that which the car-load shipper receives. All the resources of the Company have been used to give the small farmer the highest price humanly possible for his grain. Ever since the inception of the "Co-op." this policy has been steadfastly pursued.

In handling "Pool Street Wheat" at four cents per bushel for all grades, the Company has brought about a general increase in prices paid to farmers for this class of wheat at all points where its activities are felt.

Farmers! Support Your Own Company

The Brain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, October 15, 1924

Progressive Liberalism

Premier King on his western tour, is playing the part of a political wooer. For three years his government has carried on with a large measure of support from the Progressive group, and without that support could not continue. It is a situation new in the parliamentary history of Canada, and certainly is neither so comfortable nor satisfactory as having a solid majority under one leadership. The main effort of Mr. King's addresses has been an attempt to demonstrate the advantage of a union of the Progressive and Liberal forces in the country and in parliament. Speaking in Winnipeg, on October 4, Mr. King said:

If Canada needs anything for its development, it needs a progressive liberal policy. I think that the greatest misfortune that could come to this country would be to let the reactionary forces again get control, particularly when the country promises to be coming into its own in the matter of Liberal policies and Liberal points of view. It does not make the work of the administration any easier to have things as they are. I believe it would be much better for Canada if we had the Liberal and Progressive forces as one, and if the causes they had in common were advocated from one end of Canada to the other.

The nature of the union which Mr. King visualizes and which he desires, is more clearly shown in the following extract from his speech at Saskatoon, on October 7:

I am not seeking to belittle the efforts of our Progressive friends; our feelings are cordial toward them, but we do believe they are mistaken in staying outside the party whose policies are the same as their own.

When the government is forming its program it takes into its inner councils the members of the party, it discusses with them perfectly frankly what the whole situation is. That works very well with the East. When it comes to the West, where are our friends, the Progressives? Off in a room by themselves. These are very real difficulties that I am explaining.

Plainly, it is a complete fusion of the Progressives with the Liberals with one caucus, one policy and one leader, which Mr. King seeks. In fact, he says the two parties have the same policy; that the dictionary definitions of the party names are not dissimilar, and that they have in view the same objectives. Since Mr. King has appealed to the dictionary it might be well to consult that authority. Webster's Dictionary defines "liberal," thus:

Not bound by authority, orthodox tenets, or established forms in political or religious philosophy; independent in opinion; not conservative; inclined to welcome new ideas; friendly to suggestions or experiments of reform in the constitution or administration of government.

The same authority defines "progressive" in the following terms:

2. Improving or tending to progress or improvement; favoring progress; as, a progressive policy.

The definitions are not one and the same. The Progressive policy might perhaps be described as liberalism in action. Consequently, there will be pretty general agreement with Mr. King's declaration that "If Canada needs anything for its development it needs a progressive liberal policy." The plain fact of the situation, however, is that the Liberal party led by Mr. King is not composed entirely of Liberals. There is a considerable reactionary element within the party, vigorously opposed to the policy enunciated in the Liberal platform of 1919. That reactionary element is very effective in the Liberal caucus and has prevented the government from making any real headway toward the fulfilment of its 1919 platform.

During the last session of parliament, the Liberal party having been relieved of a portion of its reactionary members, the government made a little step towards the fulfilment of its platform. In fact the Liberal party is slowly moving in the direction of Progressivism. Only as the Liberal party is purged of its reactionary elements will it be able to fulfil its program of liberal legislation, and to conduct a truly liberal and progressive administration. Were the Progressive group to fuse with the Liberal party and the two become one party under one leader, it would necessarily tend to come under the domination of the party caucus. The government with a safe majority, like other governments in the past, would tend to become more and more conservative. Until the Liberal party demonstrates its liberalism in a more tangible form, Mr. King's overtures are not likely to be very effective.

But even without the wedding ceremony why should Mr. King worry? His course is clear. He has frequently been assured by the party itself that he has only to bring "progressive liberal" measures before parliament in order to receive the support of the Progressive members. This very fact should assist him to develop more liberal tendencies in his own party. Indications are not lacking that the need of Progressive support has already assisted the Liberal party to tread the paths of Liberalism when some of its members, at least, were a bit weak in the faith. The Progressives seek the welfare of Canada, and are not pursuing a narrow or sectional policy. Consequently, Mr. King has but to purge his own party of all save the truly Liberal elements and then with the support of the Progressives he can shape the future of Canada towards its ultimate destiny by pursuing a "progressive liberal" policy, which the country needs, and which the country will support.

A British Election

On a Liberal motion demanding the appointment of a committee of investigation into the action of the solicitor-general, Sir Patrick Hastings, in withdrawing the prosecution of a communist editor on a charge of sedition, the MacDonald government was defeated last week. The prime minister had stated that the matter would be treated as a question of confidence, and following the defeat, he announced dissolution of parliament and a general election on October 29.

The debate showed some misgiving on the part of a number of both Liberals and Conservatives, with regard to forcing an election on such an issue. The Conservatives originally intended making it a straight vote of censure of the solicitor-general, but ultimately they joined with the Liberals in asking for an investigation, the Liberal motion being carried by 364 to 198, 16 of the minority being other than Labor members.

The withdrawal of a prosecution of this kind is not without precedent. In 1868 the Disraeli government commenced a prosecution of Charles Bradlaugh, for the publication of a political journal under the price of sixpence, without giving the financial guarantees required under the notorious and repressive anti-sedition acts of 1819. The friends of a free press rallied to the fight, and the government beat a strategic retreat. Disraeli was defeated in the elections of 1868, and the Liberals took office under Gladstone, and were so ill-advised as to re-

new the prosecution. Finding themselves in a very awkward situation, however, the government finally agreed to withdraw the prosecution, and the result of it was the repeal of the obnoxious laws.

Somebody will doubtless contrast this case and the action of the Liberal government in 1869 with the present action of the Liberal party. In any case the Liberals are in a bad position, for while the Conservatives may argue that freedom of the press is no essential part of Conservative doctrine, the Liberal party, which fought so hard for it in the past, will have to face the charge of negating its own principles.

The issue, however it is looked at, is a trivial one on which to force a general election, but if the government had survived this attack it would almost certainly have been defeated on another matter which Premier MacDonald had made a question of confidence—that of the Russian treaty. That treaty will now become one of the issues of the election, and the Labor government goes before the people presenting a record which includes a defence of freedom of the press, recognition of Russia and the resumption of trade with that country, an amicable working with France leading to a clean-up of the reparations problem and the evacuation of the Ruhr, and the adoption of compulsory arbitration in a treaty for the outlawing of war. This is quite an achievement for a party inexperienced in administration, and about whose ability to administer the affairs of the country much doubt was expressed only a few months ago. On its record alone the MacDonald government stands a good chance of finding favor with the electorate.

Outlawing War

Carrying the world forward to the day when men "shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning-hooks," and when the nations shall make war no more, is a task which statesmen, despite the apparent longing for universal peace among the people, find to be one demanding infinite patience, consummate tact and much compromise with principles and convictions. Progress, however, is being made: what is officially known as "the protocol for pacific settlement of international disputes," the preliminary to a universal treaty of arbitration and disarmament, which has been adopted by the League of Nations at the recent meeting at Geneva, is a noteworthy effort to get war into the category of things that civilization has banned.

The protocol defines an aggressor state and provides for the machinery of arbitration of all disputes. One of the most important of the provisions is one by which the signatories accept the compulsory arbitration clause of subjects within the competence of the the Court of International Justice, which covers: The interpretation of a treaty; any question of international law; the existence of any fact which, if established, would constitute a breach of an international obligation; the nature or extent of the reparation to be made for the breach of an international obligation. At the present time acceptance of this clause by nations subscribing to the court is optional. With one exception, a nation which refuses to abide by the arbitral decisions and the judgment of the World Court, is declared to be an aggressor, and subject to the political and economic boycott, or other measures as

prescribed in the covenant of the League of Nations.

The one exception nearly reduced the entire effort on the protocol to nullity. The covenant of the league states that where a dispute between nations is over a matter of domestic jurisdiction, the council of the league "shall make no recommendation as to its settlement." The protocol provided that when one of the parties to a dispute claimed that the matter was one of domestic jurisdiction the case shall be submitted to the World Court, and the opinion of the court was to be binding on all the parties, a party refusing to accept it being declared an aggressor and subject to the treatment provided for aggressor nations. Japan asked that even matters of domestic jurisdiction be subject to arbitration, and that a nation refusing to accept the decision of the court that a given dispute referred to a matter of domestic jurisdiction be not adjudged an aggressor. Japan's proposal led to days of discussion, and received considerable support, the discussion showing how faint is the line dividing domestic from international matters. The chief opponents of the proposal were the new nations which declined to submit such questions as immigration and the exploitation of natural resources to arbitration. Eventually clauses were added to the protocol providing that even if the World Court finds the matter of a dispute to be one of domestic jurisdiction, the decision shall not prevent the council of the league giving consideration to the situation, and that, provided the nation ruled against by the World Court submits the dispute to the league, it shall not be declared to be an aggressor. This solution of the difficulty apparently satisfied everybody, but it fell short of what Japan originally demanded, and in the meantime feeling ran very high, Australia and Canadian representatives taking a strong stand against Japan's proposals.

If the protocol is ratified by a majority of the great powers and ten other nations, a disarmament conference will be called to meet at Geneva on June 15, 1925. The United States, Germany and Russia, although not members of the league, will be invited to attend this conference, in which the mutual reduction of armaments will be discussed in relation to the provisions of this new treaty for the outlawing of war.

Why the Difference?

At a meeting of the Agricultural Enquiry Committee (appointed by the Ontario Government), held in Toronto, last week, various interests gave evidence on matters affecting agriculture. The following paragraph is from the report of the session as given in *The Farmers' Sun*, of September 11:

A representative of Ontario mortgage companies stated that the general interest charge on farm mortgages is 6 per cent. against 7 per cent. in the city. "The amount loaned by mortgage companies on farms has," he said, "been steadily dwindling. Up to 1900 this form of lending made up the bulk of the business done by these companies, but today only 25 per cent. of the money loaned is placed on farm properties." The change was attributed to reduction of farm mortgage indebtedness and increase in borrowing from neighbors, instead of companies. Incidentally, this speaker stated that interest rates are tending downward.

The mortgage companies in Ontario lend money on farm mortgages at 6 per cent., but the amount of money being loaned is being reduced steadily owing, partially, to private loans, and these private loans are frequently made at rates of interest as low as 5 per cent. Some of these same mortgage companies which loan money to Ontario farmers at 6 per cent., are doing business in Western Canada, but nobody out here ever hears of farm mortgages at 6 per cent. The going rate is 7, 8 and 9 per cent., with very little 7 per cent. money. Why is there such a difference in the rate between two provinces in the same Dominion?

Editorial Notes

In the by-election in Northumberland, N.B., last week, the Liberals retained possession of the seat although their majority was cut to less than one-half of that secured at the general election of 1921. Judging from the reports of the speeches, the only issue before the electors was whether more could be got for New Brunswick out of a Liberal than out of a Conservative government. Unlike the voting in the St. Antoine by-election the voting in Northumberland was equal to that of the general election, so the voters were evidently interested in the issue.

The true fiscal policy for Canada, says the *Montreal Journal of Commerce*, is "an adequate and scientific tariff" which would "enrich our country by keeping our money within our own borders." What the *Journal of Commerce* needs is a course in elementary political economy. A financial journal that talks about "keeping our money within our borders," hasn't begun to learn its business.

Denmark's Labor government is finding that abolishing the army and navy is not going to be as easy as it sounds when explaining the proposition. Domestic opposition has arisen on the ground that a small army might become the bodyguard of Socialist dictators. On the outside, Norway and Sweden have protested on the ground that an undefended and isolated Denmark might become a menace to them; their idea is that Norway, Sweden and Denmark should stand together for mutual defence and pool their resources. That idea is not a bad one either, provided it is extended to take in all the nations. That is the only way toward universal disarmament.

The MacDonald government, on being defeated for the thirteenth time, decides to find out by a real test whether thirteen is a lucky or an unlucky number.



Dreamland

"There's a Long, Long Trail a-Winding."

JUST about as poor a quarter-section for a livestock farmer to make a living out of as one can well imagine. That's probably what you would have said had you accidentally come across Henry Tadei's place, 14 miles north of Radisson, Sask., before he put a fence around it.

It is a huge square-cornered saucer, half-a-mile along each side. Squat in the centre stands a slough of some seventy acres, whose doubtful margin is concealed by a rank growth of bulrushes, on one side crowding well out into the shallow water, and, shorewards, disputing with willow scrub for the possession of a stretch of hummocky ooze which is neither land nor water. The sloping rim of the saucer is densely clothed with the rich and varied shrubby characteristic of northern Saskatchewan's poplar forest. Only at the corners does the grass peep



A fine, big, two-year-old muskrat in his summer coat

out in sufficient quantities to attract a livestock man.

But Tadei (pronounce it to rhyme with "glad-eye" as his forefathers did, or to rhyme with "daddy" as his neighbors do—a matter about which Henry is supremely indifferent), is no ordinary kind of a livestock man. Circumstances made him a sheet-metal worker, but his love of the great outdoors made him over into a raiser of rats.

Muskrat farming is a new business in Canada. Look over the list of muskrat farms in Canada, issued by the Ottawa livestock branch, and you will find only five firms named and at least two of them are only back-yard propositions. This one at Radisson is the largest, if not also the oldest establishment of its kind in this country.

Ever since boyhood, Mr. Tadei has entertained the notion that muskrats could be profitably raised in a semi-wild state. He discovered that they could be caught unharmed in box traps, save in winter and summer. For in the cold weather, a rat which remains inactive in a box-trap will soon freeze to death, neither can a rat withstand, unshaded, the hot sun of midsummer.

Long practice taught him that the muskrat can be quickly domesticated. After 24 hours' familiarity with humans, the average rat will

allow his captor to work about his pen without showing fight. Of course, some of the old bucks are untameable savages, attacking any man who may come within reach, and killing every one of their own kind with which they may be caged. Mr. Tadei confesses to only one bite in the last two years. In one of the accompanying photos he is shown holding a rat by the tail—the usual way of handling them. This fine specimen, after one day's acquaintance, was allowed to explore his overalls dangerously close to the throat, but never offered to bite.

Ideal Site for Rat Raising

After fooling about for a few years with muskrats in restricted quarters, Mr. Tadei commenced his present large scale operations four years ago. The present site of his farm was selected after much search. It is almost ideal for the purpose. The level of the slough is almost constant. A tiny creek trickles into it at one end, and another flowing out keeps the water from becoming stagnant. The slough is 28 feet deep in the centre, so that the rats are assured of water all winter. All over the bottom, so far as the owner has been able to ascertain, there is a luxuriant growth of fresh-water weeds, providing his rodents with winter food. Bulrushes and land vegetation provide summer rations, for rats will make considerable overland journeys in search of choice morsels to eat.

Raising rats as they are now being raised on this farm, practically in the wild, the most important structure about the place is the fence. It cost \$3,000 to put a rat-proof fence round the 140 acres which are enclosed. "Made some mistakes at first," says Mr. Tadei, "because we had no examples to follow. The first fence we put in was too light. Had to rip it out and replace it with the present one. It's no use employing

anything less than 15-gauge wire of 1½-inch mesh." The high cost of this fence is explained by the fact that it is sunk underground eight inches everywhere throughout its whole two miles of length, save where it crosses the inflowing and outflowing streams, where it is 18 inches under ground, and further protected by a three-foot metal apron extending in horizontally from the bottom of the wire.

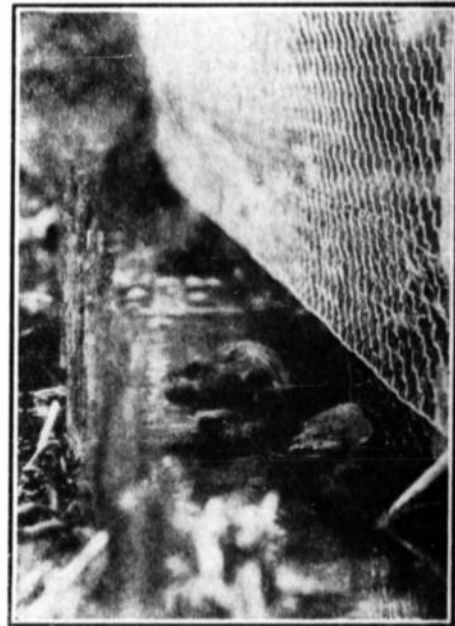
Four years ago Mr. Tadei commenced stocking this place. The rats were caught, a few at a time, at a slough near Radisson. He kept them in a huge metal tank in the cellar of his tinsmith shop in town, taking them out to the rat farm when he accumulated enough to make a trip worth while. He found that rats taken from different sloughs would fight when placed together in close quarters, but taken from the same slough, they got along peaceably enough always, excepting the old bucks which have to be isolated when in captivity.

Fast Multipliers

Once placed inside the 140-acre fence, and protected from their natural enemies, the rats multiply with incredible rapidity. There is a dispute as to the numbers of litters in a year, and the number of young to the litter. There may be three to five litters, and anywhere from four to 15 in a litter, but, Mr. Tadei says, it is safe to count on three litters, averaging five to the litter. When the family builds its home in the ensuing winter, all three litters live with the old parents, and quite frequently there will be 30 rats to each house.

The same fence which keeps the rats at home keeps out the coyotes, natural enemy of the muskrat. Likewise hawks and owls, and even crows prey on rat colonies. A full-grown rat seldom falls into the clutches of these feathered foes, but young

property. No one can say just what the carrying capacity of his range is. Probably he could allow the rats to multiply considerably yet, for there is no sign of diminishing food supply. In Eastern Canada where rat farming is being carried on under the same conditions, the first sign of overstocking is a shortage of winter feed. Then the rat farmer digs a hole through the ice and throws in vegetables. Nature provided the muskrat with the best



Rats are very easily domesticated. This group very accommodatingly posed for the camera man, eight feet away, and made no effort to escape.

refrigerator in the world. Ice water will keep vegetables indefinitely. Carrots and parsnips are the particular choice of the muskrat, but he thrives well on almost any vegetable.

In keeping rats under artificial conditions, Mr. Tadei has had good success with oat sheaves. This provided him with the idea of feed barns—little huts built on the ice where sheaves may be left. The rats come to these without hesitation. When the killing season comes, that is, from

New Year till the ice goes down stream, the doors can be closed when the rats are banqueting, and the older inmates selected for slaughter. They are despatched with one blow of a club so as not to damage the pelts. At the estimated rate of reproduction, there is

Continued on Page 12



This rat isn't objecting to the rocking of the boat, but resents the pup's suggestive licking of lips

Nature's Sports

Sometimes, in a freakish mood, nature produces specimens that vary from the fixed type---Some of the farmers' best varieties originated in this way---

By Willer Forester

WHEN the world was young and our ancestors dwelt in caves there was no field culture or agriculture. How great a change has been effected in their wild plants! From small-seeded wild grasses has been developed our hard milling wheat. From the common wild sloe, or wild plum of Eurasia, have come the Yellow Egg and the large red Victoria plums. From the European wild gooseberry has been developed the English gooseberries with fruit as large as a pigeon's egg. And, so on, through the whole range of cultivated plants might be noted the enormous improvements that have taken place in native wild plants to produce our present day, high quality, domesticated plant crops.

It has taken centuries to effect these improvements. We can take it for granted that improvements shall continue for endless ages to come. It is like progressing up a never-ending slope which is for the most part gradual, but here and there an abrupt steep is encountered and when climbed, a new sloping terrace is gained considerably above the one just having been traversed.

Among the plants at present required for the grower of prairie plants, to place us on much higher terraces, are rustless wheat, rustless oats, hardy tree fruits of good quality, hardier red clovers, good beardless barley, peonies with longer blooming season, earlier maturing fodder corn, and so on.

Accidental Discoveries Frequent

Every person who tramps the fields, hoes the garden crops, or walks through the grain has a chance to discover some great new variety. Most of the improvements that have been secured in plants in the past have been found by some person casually walking through the fields or working among his plants. A large proportion of the new strains of the future will doubtlessly be found in like manner. Sometimes a man out hunting for a deer has paused to tie his shoelace or to take a short rest, and, looking up, has perceived his game standing watching him.

A short time ago a trapper in the north fastened his bear trap to a jack pine log. The next morning he set out to visit his traps and on coming to the setting place of the bear trap he found that the trap and its log mooring had departed. He forthwith commenced to follow up the trail. After following the easily discerned track for about two miles, he became hungry, noticed the hour was past noon and that he was in a good place to make lunch so had his meal. He was about through eating when glancing up into a pine tree about 20 feet ahead of him, he perceived a large black bear perched in the midst of its branches and hanging from his foot was the chain and the jack pine toggle. He had located his quarry. Hunting for prize plants is a somewhat similar pursuit and reward often comes when least expected. The prize game animal or the prize new plant variety may be found and acquired when not at all expected, and even when the person has not been thinking about prize game. The main point is to be in the vicinity of the animals or plants, to have eyes to see, and to know how to act when the game comes into view.

Two Unique Variations

Mr. Orchard, when clearing bush land on his farm near Miami, Manitoba, noticed a very attractive rose bush. It was heavily laden with rich pink blooms. Closer examination of the bush showed the individual flowers to be unique in that they were nearly double, the petals filling most of the centre of the flower. Mr. Orchard had only bushman's tools with him, but, deciding that the rose should be removed to his garden, he chopped the plant out with an axe and placed the roots in a pail of water. When the day's work was done the rose bush was carried home and set in the garden. The plant thrived and is now about five feet in height, and has a family of like kind growing near it in the garden, as this bush, in prairie rose fashion, sent forth

sucker growths and these in time became rose bushes.

Mr. Thornhill, who farms near Stockton, Manitoba, was taking a walk afield in springtime and, passing a clump of pin cherries in bloom, noticed their unusual inflorescence. These cherry blooms, different to their kindred, were double flowers. In their case the stamens had gone into the advertising business, having taken on the form of petals. An accompanying illustration, which was photographed this spring, shows the nature of the flowers. This new type of flowering cherry may become valuable for planting in our prairie ornamental shrubberies.

The McIntosh Red

One of the most valuable of the commercial apples grown in Canada and in the United States is said to have been found growing beside a pasture on an eastern farm. The tree did not command much attention until a man going down to the pasture late one summer noticed the heavy crop of large red apples of beautiful appearance. Adam-like, he tasted the fruit and was delighted with the joy it brought to his palate. The virtues of the new variety were such as to make it so very popular that it is now one of the most heavily planted varieties in the apple-growing sections of North America—the famous McIntosh Red.

Mr. Boughen, of Valley River, Manitoba, has a host of wild chokecherries growing on the bank of the river. One tree bears fruit of such desirable qualities that he has given to it the name of the "the Chokeless Cherry." It is being planted in considerable numbers in the northern prairie states to the south of our border.

The "Northwestern Poplar" was found near the Missouri River in western North Dakota. A prairie bluff was composed of this type of tree. It was noticed to be different to any of the other native poplars—the cottonwood, the aspen, and the balsam poplar. It has some characters resembling the aspen and others suggesting the balsam poplar, and is now conceded to be a natural hybrid of these two species. It

promises to be of more value for prairie shelter belt planting than either parent.

Now the fact to observe is that each person discovering the above specimens had made a find. He had "arrived" because he had found something good that could be held on to. Each plant may be propagated vegetatively. The rose may be increased by sucker growths, layering, or budding; the pin cherry and choke cherry by sucker growths, budding, or grafting; the apple by budding, or grafting; and the poplar by cuttings.

In cases where the variety must be propagated by seed it is generally a more difficult task to secure a new variety which may be increased true to type. All of the above named plants may be reproduced by planting seeds, but the resulting plants may be widely different to the mother parent. Apples may be cited as an instance. Apples are notorious for the variation found in their seedling families. This very quality coupled with the fact that the new variety may be propagated by vegetative parts, encourages the wide planting of apple seeds.

The Case of Red Bobs

Dr. Seager Wheeler, of Rosthern, Saskatchewan, noticed red kernels in the crop harvested from White Bobs wheat. These were saved and planted and selections made, and the result was that he was able to offer his fellow farmers a promising new hard wheat. Wheat, oats and barley are, normally, self-pollinated crops and thus offer an attractive field for the selection of new types. A small percentage of natural crossing takes place in these crops, as it does also with peas, beans and tomatoes. From these natural crosses many desirable selections are being made.

Occasionally a new type arises which is difficult to explain. A few years ago a man in New York State, growing a field of Red Kidney beans, noticed that although his general crop was badly infested with that damaging disease, Bean Anthracnose, one plant appeared totally free from the pest.

This plant was marked and its seeds saved separately. The plant proved to be a true sport or "mutation" as the plants raised from its seed were likewise immune to anthracnose. The new strain is known as Wells Red Kidney Bean and has proved of great value in the growing of field beans.

The most difficult crops in which to fix the new type are those which are propagated by seed and are normally cross-pollinated. Examples of these are corn, rye, timothy, blue grass, etc. When one kind of corn is crossed with another kind it is necessary to isolate the succeeding crops grown and to have the plants self-pollinated until the desired new type is selected and fixed, that is until it "breeds true." Now and then one of Nature's Sports occurs even with these crops. The Kentucky Blue Grass sport discovered at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, is an example. It stood out prominently among its field companions, being tall, upstanding and very early in maturity, and was true "Sport" as the seed reproduced true-to-type plants.

In the Animal Kingdom

The animal world is not without examples of sporting. Probably the first "muley" among domestic cattle was a sport. And, as the polled characteristic in cattle is dominant to the horned characteristic, or in plainer language, tends to overcome it, it has been comparatively a simple matter to found hornless breeds like the Aberdeen-Angus, or to fasten that feature on certain families of old established horned breeds like the Hereford and Shorthorn. The mule-footed hog is another breed built probably on an accidental sport. Certain peculiarities of plumage in poultry first arose as sports, and undoubtedly dog-breeders, back in unrecorded history, perpetuated some of the pranks Nature played with the visage of that species.

But animal breeders have much less to hope for than plant breeders in the way of bringing about improvements in this way, because sports are rare in the animal kingdom, inheritance is infinitely more complex, and reproduction is so much slower. Few breeders live long enough to do what Bakewell did with Leicester sheep, originate and fix the characteristics of a distinct new breed.

In 1859, Darwin published his immortal volume, *The Origin of Species*, in which the claim was put forward that new species came into existence by almost imperceptible changes taking place continuously in previously-existing species. For instance, the prehistoric horse through many generations developed his middle toe into a hoof, and gradually shed the others, leaving only the barest traces.

Twenty years after Darwin, Hugo DeVries, a Dutch naturalist, advanced a new idea. Species do not arise as a consequence of slow changes, said DeVries. New forms rise in a single generation. Sports breed true and thus preserve the big jump which Nature has taken. Between these two viewpoints much controversy has raged. Uninformed critics, whose wish was father to the thought, interpreted the discussion from pulpit and platform as the downfall of Darwinism. Far from it. Properly understood, DeVries' theory buttresses Darwin in support of evolution.

Most of the important large tasks, such as developing fully rust-resistant cereals, hardier tree fruits, and adapted climbing roses will probably be performed by skilled, technical plant breeders at experimental stations. However, it is as probable that a large proportion of the improved new strains of cereals, grasses and flowers of the next two hundred years will result, as has been the case in the past, from the experimentation and vigilance of the private grower of crops as he works alone among his plants, or tramps ob-servantly through the fields.

Let us be on the look-out for Nature's Sports. Let us watch for variation among our seedlings—the ugly duckling may turn out to be a swan.



Sprigs of Pin Cherry showing double flowers. An unusual sport discovered by a Manitoba farmer

Partnership Threshing Accounts

A fair method of settling labor differences—

By I. W. Dickerson

ONE of the troublesome things in settling up the costs of threshing, silo filling and other operations which farmers work on a ring or co-operative basis is that of keeping track of and making the proper allowances for the various amounts of work each farmer has to do. If each farmer had exactly the same number of acres or bushels of each kind of grain the problem would be simple, but where one farmer has a big acreage and the next one a small one it sometimes seems somewhat complicated. Both the bushel method and hour method of labor distribution are used, but surveys made by the Farm Management Department of the University of Illinois show that the time or hour basis is the fairest and most satisfactory method.

(Cr.) represents the amounts owed to the ring or by the ring. Thus, Farmer A's total debit is 176 hours, and credit 132. He therefore owes the ring for the difference, or 44 hours. Farmer B also receives more help than he furnishes. He owes the ring for 242 minus 126, or 116 hours. Farmer C receives 88 hours, but furnished 140. The ring therefore owes him for the difference, which is 52 hours. Farmers D and E received more labor than they furnished and therefore owe the ring for the difference, or 256 and 20 hours, respectively. Farmers F, G and H furnished more labor than they received. The ring owes them for 52, 116, 128 and 140 hours, respectively. On the basis of 25 cents per hour the amounts owed to the ring by A, B, D and E would be \$11, \$29, \$64 and \$5.00, respectively.

Table 1—Data on an Actual Threshing Ring

Name of Member	Acres of oats	Yield per acre	*Bushels oats threshed	Number of men furnished	Time for threshing (hours)
A	40	36.9	1,476	1	16
B	46	46.1	2,121	1	22
C	25	29.6	741	1	8
D	90	49.0	4,413	2	46
E	57	27.0	1,536	1	14
F	65	31.1	2,020	2	15
G	60	28.3	1,700	2	14
H	43	32.6	1,400	2	14
Total	426		15,407	12	148

*Where wheat was grown, one bushel of wheat was considered equivalent to two bushels of oats.

Table 1, given above, illustrates conditions frequently found to exist in threshing rings, showing the differences in acreage and bushels of grain threshed on different farms in a community. Using this data as a basis, a description of settling labor on time basis is given as follows:

The time basis of settling labor differences which occur in using labor in threshing is a method of settling on the basis of man labor which each member of the threshing ring furnishes to others and receives from them. This method necessitates the appointment of a timekeeper, who may also act as treasurer. The timekeeper will find it convenient to use some such form for recording time as is shown in Table 2. This form is like a regular time sheet, except that the farmers for whom threshing is done are listed at the top of each column, in place of the different days of the week. On the line with the farmer's name is recorded the number of hours of man labor which he and his hired help have furnished to the other members of the ring. Delays of more than 15 minutes, for which the member having the threshing done is not responsible, are not charged against him. The actual records of the same ring and the final settlement are shown in Table 2.

These amounts would be paid to the treasurer, who would then pay C, F, G and H the amounts owed them, viz., \$13, \$29, \$32 and \$35.

Other methods of settlement are called bushel basis and the acreage basis. The objection to the bushel basis is that some men may have grain which yields much less even though there is a great deal of straw to put through the machine, or threshing may take a long time due to weeds in the grain. The objections to the acreage basis is that yield varies widely from farm to farm. It seems that for all conditions the time basis is the fairest method of making settlement. Where one farmer furnished several horses and others none, it would almost be necessary to keep track of the horse hours in the same way as for the man hours; set an agreed price on this (usually 15 cents an hour will be about right) and then balance this up in exactly the same way as for the man hours.

More and better fruit is being grown every year in the Medicine Hat district. Two trees of crab apples, grown within the city limits, this year yielded 255 pounds of fruit.

Table 2—Threshing Ring Settlement. Based on the Number of Hours of Man Labor Furnished and Received

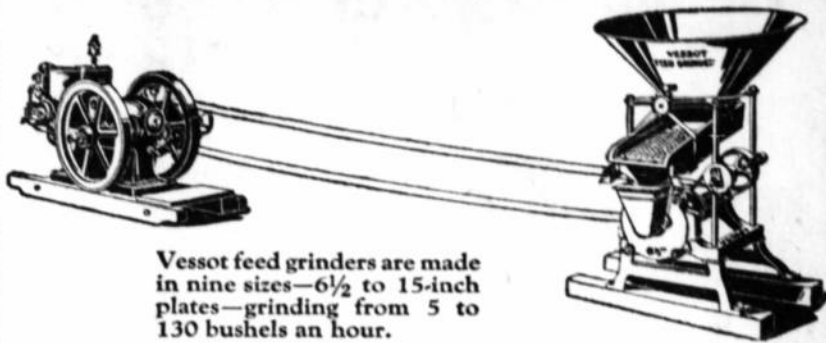
Furnished to	LABOR								CASH	
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	Owed to ring	Owed by ring
A	*	22	8	46	14	15	14	13	132	44
B	16	*	8	46	14	15	14	13	126	116
C	16	22	*	46	14	15	14	13	140	52
D	32	44	16	*	28	30	28	26	204	156
E	16	22	8	46	*	15	14	13	134	20
F	32	44	16	92	28	*	28	26	266	116
G	32	44	16	92	28	30	*	26	268	128
H	32	44	16	92	28	30	28	*	270	140
Total hours received Dr.	176	242	88	460	154	150	140	130	1,540	436
Hours for threshing	16	22	8	46	14	15	14	13	148	
Number of men furnished	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	12	

*It is not necessary to record the time of each farmer on his own job.
**Labor was figured at 25c. per hour.

Farmer A was the first to thresh. He received from Farmers B, C, D, E, F, G and H, 16, 16, 32, 16, 32, 32 and 32 hours of labor, respectively, or a total of 176 hours. He is therefore indebted to the ring for that number of hours. During the threshing season Farmer A furnishes Farmers B, C, D, E, F, G and H with 22, 8, 46, 14, 15, 14 and 13 hours, respectively, or a total of 132 hours, which amounts is credited to him. Farmer B receives in all 242 hours of labor and furnishes a total of 126 hours to the other members of the ring. The debits (Dr.—hours received by each from the ring) and the credits (Cr.—hours furnished to the ring) of each of the other members of the ring may be readily noted on the time sheet shown in Table 2. The differences between the hours received (Dr.) and the hours furnished



The accompanying picture is that of a weeder invented by Chas. Carlson, Climax, Sask. It has four float-like sections, and takes a cut 16 feet wide, has 64 wings or shovels that work in opposite directions, is drawn by eight horses and can clean off from 30 to 40 acres a day to perfection, according to the inventor.



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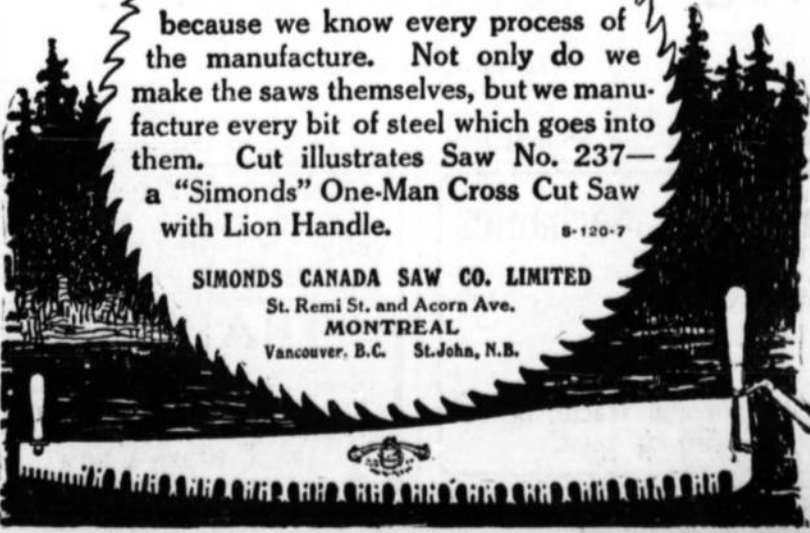
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Honey As An Anti-Freeze Mixture

The following advice regarding the use of honey as an anti-freeze mixture for automobile radiators was written by a farmer to whom was referred a complaint by a dissatisfied user:

"In reply to the reader who has had trouble with honey in his radiator, would say that we have been using a honey solution in a light truck for the past two winters and it has given entire satisfaction.

"In the first place your correspondent has been using an entirely too rich a mixture. A 50-50 (by measure) solution of good ripe honey and water is all that is necessary, but it should be thoroughly mixed before going into the radiator, and it is better to put the solution in a boiler on the stove and let it come to a boil. This not only ensures a thorough mixing, but experiments have shown that boiled honey will stand a lower temperature without freezing. Never put honey into a radiator without thoroughly mixing with the water before putting it in. If you do the honey will settle to the bottom, will not circulate, and your radiator will freeze up. If you do not care to boil the mixture, at least heat both the water and honey and pour from one vessel to the other while hot until thoroughly mixed, and you will find the mixture when warm is quite thin and should circulate freely in any Ford radiator that does not have a faulty circulation.

Another Precaution

"Another important thing to bear in mind in using honey in radiators is this: The mixture in cold weather will get slushy, and before taking your car out on the road in this condition the motor should be started; then cover the radiator and hood with a blanket and let the motor run until it gets warmed up. Stop your motor and the heat will soon warm the mixture, when it will be in condition to circulate. Otherwise you will have something that resembles a steam engine as your correspondent says, but can be avoided with a little precaution. Should this happen on the road a blanket thrown over the radiator and hood will usually in a few minutes relieve the trouble. When it does happen you can rest assured that your mixture was not liquid when you started out, and was not the fault of the mixture, but your own.

"A leading trade paper states that in using honey as an anti-freeze mixture in automobile radiators, it should be mixed with water, half and half, engine-head gaskets and hose connections should be tightened up before using the solution, as the honey water will pass through apparently tight connections, causing stickiness. The solution becomes more efficient with evaporation from steaming, whereas an alcohol solution loses strength.

"Those who have tried honey in leaky radiators or in machines with leaky gaskets in the cylinder head, also those who have taken their cars out of the garage when the thermometer was 10 or 15 degrees below zero without first warming the mixture will not be very enthusiastic about praising honey as an anti-freeze mixture. All this trouble can be avoided, however, by knowing how to handle the mixture.

"So far as glucose, molasses, sugar or cheap syrups are concerned in radiators, they have proven a failure under scientific tests, and while I have a pamphlet giving the reasons why they have failed, I will cut it short by saying that honey contains properties that the others do not and much safer to use."

Water Trough With Heater Below

In answer to a farm reader who writes: "I wish to make a watering trough made of concrete, with a concrete fireplace underneath. Will such an arrangement prove satisfactory?" I. W. Dickerson answers:

One solution of the problem of heating livestock drinking water is by making the stock tank or watering trough of concrete, with a concrete fireplace underneath. This can be done with satisfactory results, if special care is taken in the concrete construction. The fireplace part should be separate from the tank proper to reduce as much as possible the trouble from expansion and contraction. In other words, the fireplace part should



WHEN WINTER COMES

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be built first, then the tank constructed as another unit on top.

The tank bottom should be made extra thickness of a mixture of one bag cement, two cubic feet of sand, and three cubic feet of coarse pebbles or broken stone. About one-tenth as much hydrated lime as cement will add a little to the waterproof qualities. Use only enough water to make a quaky or jelly-like mixture. The whole tank, and especially the bottom and where the bottom and sides join, should be very carefully reinforced with first-class reinforcing. Use either regular reinforcing rods, or else twist two or three galvanized wires into cables and use these. Do not use large rods or tubes or any except good material.

The fireplace will have to have a chimney to give proper draft, a grate of some kind to keep the fuel off the ashes, some way of pulling out the ashes, and some protection to keep rain and surface water from running into the pit. I really believe a better way is to put the stove close to the tank and run a coil into the tank and then around the fire. This is a simpler and cheaper construction, although it will not be nearly so efficient as fuel.

Medicine Hat Corn Show Off

In announcing that there will be no corn show at Medicine Hat this fall, as originally planned, Prof. James Murray, district agriculturist for southeastern Alberta, has the following advice to offer in regard to forestalling a shortage of seed corn next spring:

"We have definitely decided not to attempt to hold a corn show this year. I have found a limited amount of available corn in the country, but I doubt if there is 10 per cent. as much as there was last year. There is certainly less ripe corn than there has been for eight or nine years.

"Many of our farmers who had a few acres became discouraged with it early in July and gave up cultivating, with the result that before the rains came in the latter part of that month the weeds had gained complete control. Those who did keep on cultivating have been rewarded with quite a good crop, although it is somewhat later than usual, as we not only had cool weather in May

are sure to have a serious shortage next spring of the varieties best suited for this district. I have not been in Saskatchewan, but I understand that similar conditions exist there, and I know there is going to be very little ripe corn in Northern Montana. It seems to be of the utmost importance therefore that we save as much of our seed as we possibly can."

Utilizing Off-Grade Corn

Extensive use of corn silage for livestock feeding by farmers and experiment station workers has shown that the best silage is obtained when the kernels have hardened or glazed, and while the stalk and most of the leaves are still green. At this stage of growth the corn plant contains the greatest amount of nutrients and sufficient moisture to properly preserve the ensiled corn. Corn that is put into the silo before reaching this stage lacks in nutrients, contains a high percentage of moisture, and is likely to be very sour. If cut too late the stalks become hard and woody and silage made from such corn often lacks in palatability and unless water is added it may even become moldy, resulting in a loss of feed and endangering the health of the animals to which it is fed.

The farmer who has made definite plans to use corn silage extensively in livestock production cannot, on account of seasonal and other weather conditions, always produce a crop of corn in the right stage of maturity for making choice silage. The results of two experiments reported in Bulletin 182 of the South Dakota Experiment Station, Corn Silage for Beef Production, show the feeding value of silage made from corn in various stages of maturity.

In two different years four silos were filled with the same variety of corn, but at different times in order to represent the following stages of development:

1. When in the blister or milk stage.
2. When in the dough stage.
3. When in the glazed or dent stage.
4. When well matured but frosted.

The first experiment lasted 119 days and the second 90 days. Five steers were fed in each lot each year. Silage without any other roughage or concentrates formed the rations used in this trial. The average results for the two years are shown in the following table:

Condition of corn	Blister Stage	Dough Stage	Dent Stage	Well Matured but Frosted
Number of steers fed.....	10	10	10	10
Average daily gain per steer in pounds.....	1.94	2.27	2.28	2.09
Average number pounds silage consumed daily per steer.....	76	73	72	56
Pounds silage consumed for one pound gain.....	39.8	32.1	31.4	26.9
Average pounds dry matter consumed for one pound gain.....	8.3	8.6	8.1	10.7

and June, but very little heat in August.

"We are not at all discouraged about the corn grown in this part of the world, as I have seen enough good corn during the last two weeks to indicate what the possibilities are, even in a season as unfavorable as this one has been.

"The Provincial Seed Fair is to be held in Calgary this year, in January, and we are arranging to have a somewhat fuller corn classification than in previous shows, so that those who have good seed will be able to exhibit it. I am urging our corn growers to save as much seed as they possibly can, as we

The results obtained in this experiment indicate that silage made from corn that is glazed or dented before the stalks and leaves become dry produced the best daily gains. This agrees with the changes in the storage of feed nutrients as they occur in the corn plant in the various stages of maturity. What is, however, just as significant and important is the fact that corn in the other three stages produced silage that was quite satisfactory as a feed for steers. The differences in the average daily amounts of feed consumed by the steers in each lot and the amount of



One of the unusually fine pens of hunting dogs at R. L. Brakfield's Willow Park Kennels, Venn, Sask. In this pen are six dogs, six months old, remarkably well-grown out for their age, all sired by Quicker Cannon, pronounced by the judge at Bristol, England, to be just what a greyhound should be in good running condition. Mr. Brakfield's dogs have over 600 wolves and foxes to their credit.

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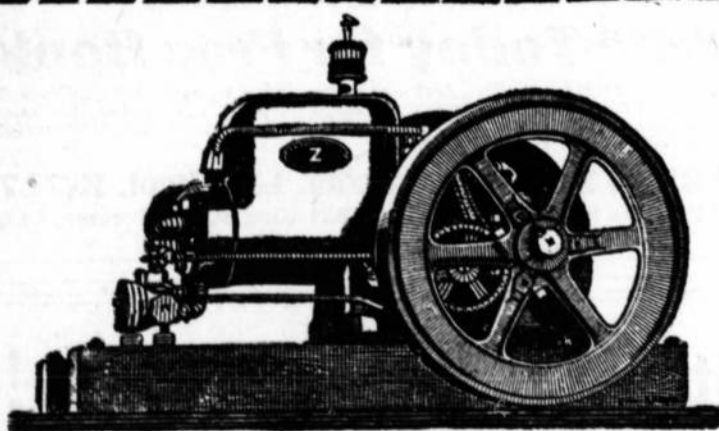
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October Flock Management

A good time to get rid of the boarders before housing space commands a premium

DURING this month, if it has not been done previously, the farm flock should be carefully culled, so that only the best of the yearling hens are kept over the winter.

Most farmers have a tendency to keep old hens which are long past the period of profitable egg production. It does not pay to keep a hen longer than two years, unless she is an exceptionally good layer that it is desired to breed from in the spring. One of the main reasons why farm flocks do not lay as they should during the winter is simply that too big a proportion of the flock is made up of hens over two years old. Bearing this in mind, practically all hens except the best of the yearlings (last year's pullets) should be discarded.

The next thing is to cull out the poorer layers of the yearlings. In most flocks the hens will not be banded or otherwise marked to distinguish their ages, and the proposition is narrowed down to handling each bird individually, discarding those known to be over two years old, and judging the rest according to their evidences of egg production. This is a task which no one need hesitate to tackle.

The poorer layers will have more yellow color in the shanks and bill, than will the good ones. About six weeks laying will bleach the yellow color from the bill and six months fairly steady production will bleach the legs. These tests are not applicable except to yellow legged varieties—Plymouth Rocks, Leghorns, Rhode Islands Reds and Wyandottes. Hens that are very fat or have coarse wrinkled beefy heads are usually old or too fat to lay and should be eliminated. In contrast to them, the best layers will be in good condition, not over-fat, and clean cut about the head.

Body conformation tells quite a story regarding the probability of egg production. Good layers are usually long in the breast bone, wide across the back at the hip bones and deep from back to breast bone. A big frame is necessary in order to handle the feed. Breeds differ in size, of course, but even in Leghorns, the best of which will be much smaller than the poorest Barred Rocks, it will be found that the body shape and size varies greatly, and that the best producers will be longer, broader and deeper than the poor ones. The capacity, or depth from the two pelvic bones down to the rear end of the breast bone, is much greater in good layers than in poor ones. Good layers may have a four or five-finger capacity while poor ones will have a three-finger capacity or less.

A Popular Misconception

Contrary to general opinion the spread between the pelvic bones does not tell whether or not a hen is a good layer. It does indicate usually whether or not the hen is laying at the present time. Birds having a spread of two fingers or more are usually laying.

Early moults are poor laying birds as a rule. The best producers will be the ones that are in the moult during this month or even later. We commonly see hens in November that seem to have moulted all their feathers at once, and have practically no protection against the chill November winds of our climate. Such birds are the best of the flock. They should be cared for and specially marked as good hens to breed from next spring. If no other culling is done, we should at least keep the hens that did not start to moult till late September or October.

Right now is the time to facilitate next year's culling by leg banding all of the 1924 pullets with leg bands of the same color. The one and one-half spiral celluloid bands are the best. In ordering make sure that a size is obtained sufficiently large for the breed to be banded. Leghorn bands on Wyandottes result in lame legs. If all the pullets are banded this fall, when it comes culling time next year, all unbanded hens will be too old to keep, and

it will be necessary to examine in detail only the banded birds. Bands can be obtained for little over a cent each, and should be used in every farm flock. They are the only definite way (except toe-punching) by which one can know the age of a hen.

Observe Space Limits

Do not try to keep over the winter more birds than your poultry house will accommodate. Overcrowding is a most common cause of disease and low egg production. Allow four square feet of floor space per bird, and in small houses up to six square feet per bird should be available. Leghorns in a large house may get along quite well with only three square feet per bird.

Remembering this, cull out the old birds as closely as possible and then weed out the smaller, slow maturing and sickly pullets till the right number of choice birds is left to keep over the winter. It is not easy to cull pullets for egg production, but anyone can soon learn to discard the crow-headed, sickly and unprofitable birds.

Give the hen house a thorough cleaning and disinfect it well before the birds are brought in for the winter. Most farm poultry houses have earth floors, but few farmers bother to remove the top four or five inches of the floor and put in new soil, a thing that should be done at least once a year. This is particularly advisable if there has been any tuberculosis or other disease in the flock. Walls, dropping boards and nests should be thoroughly cleaned, all old litter removed, and the houses sprayed or painted with white wash containing five per cent of crude carbolic acid, cresol, or some other good coal tar disinfectant.

Slight alterations can often be made to an old hen house so that it will conform more closely to the ideal conditions. Most poultry houses are altogether too dark, with the result that disease is more prevalent than it should be. Extra sashes of glass and cotton on the southern exposure would improve most prairie poultry houses. The amount of cotton screens used on the front will depend on the degree of exposure to wind, but in general, over half of the southern exposure should be in glass and cotton, and of this area, at least one-third may be cotton.

Straw lofts will improve any hen house and may even be put in houses of the shed roof or flat roof type. An opening at each end of the straw loft is necessary to permit circulation of air through the loft.

Coach the Pullets Along

Pullets should be housed at least by the middle of October and fed carefully to get them laying as soon as possible. If they can be kept separate from the hens, so much the better. Have plenty of clean, dry straw in the house and feed some grain in it to accustom the pullets to living in the hen house. Be sure that there is adequate ventilation and yet no drafts. Roup is usually due to overcrowding in stuffy roosting quarters or to draughts.

It is not enough that the flock be allowed to dig their feed out of the straw stack. If they have access to a supply of grain in this way it is all the better, but even so, some mixed grain should be fed morning and night. Wheat, oats and barley (equal parts) make a good mixture. Buckwheat may be used up to 25 per cent of the ration, and is a splendid feed for hens in winter. It is sometimes difficult to get them started eating it.

A dry mash of crushed oats is relished as much as any other by laying hens. It is not necessary to buy patent laying mash. A good laying mash can be made up from ground wheat, ground oats and ground corn or buckwheat, equal parts, to which has been added 10 per cent of beef scrap or tankage.

Skim-milk or butter-milk constantly supplied will hasten the commencement of laying and help to keep the hens laying well after they are started.



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A Saskatchewan Muskrat Farm

Continued from Page 7

every reason to hope that this rat farm will eventually stand a yearly kill of 6,000 rats. The draft this year will be limited to 1,000 pelts. Last year's price for pelts of all ages was about \$1.00 each.

Will Introduce Beaver

But Mr. Tadei has a better plan than to run too close to the margin of overstocking. He feels that it is safer to keep the muskrat population down below 7,000, and to supplement his revenue by raising beaver. While there is some over-lapping in their choice of food, beavers eat a greater variety of bark, buds and twigs, and hence the fur-bearing capacity of the place would be greater with the two species growing side by side, than if either was raised alone.

Beaver raising is another infant industry. These animals breed well in captivity, and are quite docile. There is every reason to believe that they will live in harmony with the rats. The first act of a colony of beavers would be to dam up the outlet of the lake, raising its level and extending its borders, thus increasing the supply of water weeds for both rats and themselves.

But Mr. Tadei's difficulty so far has been in getting breeding stock. The breeding organs of the beaver are internal, so that it is almost impossible to distinguish between the sexes. One Alberta beaver breeder known to the writer has kept eight beavers for the last year without receiving any increase—due either to the fact that all his animals are of the same sex, or else they are too closely quartered. Up till the present time Mr. Tadei's beaver farming has all been done on paper, but he intends going into it in earnest at an early date.

Another side-line (this one actually under way, on this quarter-section), is poultry. There is nothing to fear from hairy marauders in the hen-house, for, unlike his odorous brother

the house-rat, the muskrat has no fancy for eggs and young chickens. And where could you raise turkeys better than in a quarter-section with a chicken-proof fence, coyotes excluded, a game-keeper to make war on hawks, and shade in abundance?

Instinct Thwarted

But to get back to the rats. In a state of nature the muskrat family breaks up after the spring thaw destroys the house. To prevent in-breeding the rat migrates every spring, finding himself an unrelated mate before the next breeding season. While a rat can climb the five-foot fence about this farm, he will not do so unless hard pressed in pursuit, or driven to it by shortage of food. The losses over and through Mr. Tadei's fence have been practically nil. But even though in this case, migration is prevented, there is no danger from in-breeding. The very size of the rat population and the extent of the range settles that difficulty. Moreover, fresh blood is being continually introduced by releasing captured animals in the colony.

"The fur farmer is one of the few who does not have to worry about finding a market for his product," says Mr. Tadei. "The last available statistics, those of 1922, show that the total number of muskrats raised in captivity in Canada was 5,157. That is only a drop in the bucket when compared with the number caught by trappers in one year. When the demand was at its height in 1919, nearly every pond in the country was trapped out—15,000,000 pelts of "Musquash," as the Indians call them, were put on the market in that year. The wild rats are only now beginning to recover from that slaughter. Prices in 1919 were out of sight. As soon as deflation set in, skins went way down in price but have now come back to about normal.

Muskrat skins are for the most part dyed black and made into what is sold under the trade name of Hudson Seal, although many skins are left the



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natural color and sold as rat. It takes from 30 to 60 skins to make a coat. The western breeder can expect no returns save what he gets from the sale of skins and breeding stock. In the East, the flesh of muskrats is sold to fashionable hotels and appears on the table as Marsh Hare.

Mr. Tadei has received practically all his revenue so far from the sale of furs, and on that basis alone counts it as a highly profitable business after the first few years of heavy expense are passed. Many thousands of acres of land in Western Canada, totally unfitted for grain production, could be made as productive of wealth as the average grain farm if they were devoted to the art of muskrat raising.

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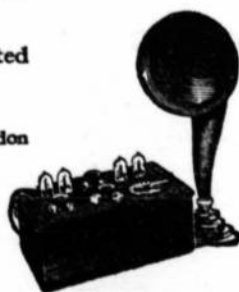
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By Victor Lauriston

(Continued from Last Week)

CHAPTER XXIV The Hand of Nick Ross

Laura Winright closed the door behind her, solemnly; as though, with it, she closed a chapter in her life.

Indeed, that was what she did. She realized the fact when she halted inside the door.

Through its stained-glass panes, little rays of colored light streamed into the shadowy hall, weaving a bright new pattern in the old carpet. The place had all the silence of a sanctuary, and all its impressive shade. Laura Winright's soul, storm-tossed through the hour just gone, found eager rest in its peace.

She passed slowly along the hall, wondering. Memories of her father rose at every step. Her father? Adam Winright was not her father, never had been! Yet he had lain dead in that room, and she with trembling fingers had lifted the white sheet that covered him, had clutched his dead hand, had turned the palm to the light.

Swiftly she glided into the room, and knelt there. Impulsive tears leapt to her eyes. Before all things she was bound to avenge him; bound to discover the truth of how he died; doubly bound now that she knew in him no longer a father, but just a benefactor.

"But what can I do, now?" In sudden illumination she recognized her helplessness, stripped of everything that could buy assistance. Her hands clenched. "I shall go on alone," she told herself. "Even if no one helps me, I shall go on. Tom may give up, but I never will. Never."

She rose, dry-eyed now.

"I must be late," she reflected, practically. "No time to dress for dinner." Then she recalled that this would probably be her last meal in Castle Sunset.

She laughed at the thought of dinner. She could just as easily have wept. Through the untasted meal she sat opposite Tom, engrossed in silent thought.

"Mr. Airth has gone?" she asked, presently.

Tom nodded.

"Why did you run away like that?" he added.

"I was excited, I suppose. It felt so good to be quite free of it all."

He stared at her, evidently puzzled by her mood. She rose, and came to him.

"Tom, dear boy, you'll never understand, I suppose. Money's a great thing, but there are things worth more than money." She laughed, softly. "I have won something. . . . I don't mind the price." She sat down again, too excited to more than nibble at the food Mrs. MacTurk put before her.

"Mamma Judy," she announced, "I'm going away."

Tom waited till the old woman was beyond earshot.

"See here, Laura," he urged, "that's all bosh about your going away. You're not so foolish as all that? Why, this place has always been your home. It always will be, while I have the say. That fool lawyer made me tired," he added, with a show of irritability. "As if we couldn't have gone ahead, divided everything, and got along quite comfortably. Even if there is no will, is there a bit of doubt as to what dad meant to do?"

"There's no doubt, anyway, about what I mean to do."

"You're going?"

"Yes."

"It's sheer foolishness."

She leaned across the table. He interrupted her with a question.

"See here, Laura, is there anything between you and Annisford?"

She smiled.

"I'm going to marry Nick Ross."

"The devil you are! You! A Winright!" Tom was actually perturbed.

"But I'm not a Winright."

"Oh, bosh!"

There was, she felt, no use arguing with him. But she was her own mistress.

"I'm going to pack my things," she

announced, as she rose from the table. "Then I'll kiss you good-bye."

His response surprised her. He merely laughed, indifferently.

"By all means. I daresay you'll be back in a week. I'll have Mamma Judy keep your room ready for you."

His eyes were cold. There was no smile in them. She was startled. Was he glad to have her go?

She had sat there, dawdling over the dinner, longer than she thought. A glance down the long hall told her that. The level rays of the declining sun streamed through the open door of the Ghost Room at the very end of the hall. With her foot already on the bottom step of the stair, she halted.

She would see one more Huron sunset from the west porch, and then—then she would go.

She turned from the stair, and went on through the Ghost Room. The French windows stood open. A cooling breeze swept through them, fanning her cheek. She realized how feverishly excited she had been.

Did she really understand it all? She asked herself that question as, sinking into her father's arm chair, she stared out upon the red and gold of the lake. Thus she had often sat, as a child, on summer evenings, on Adam Winright's knee.

The hour and the place called up many memories of him. The light slowly died out of the west. Laura glanced about her, startled, almost fancying she could see him sitting across the table from her, or moving slowly along the shelves, searching with peering eyes for some favorite book.

She shivered, though the summer night was warm. Desperately she tried to think of Nick Ross; but at every turn her mind confronted the haunting image of Adam Winright—Adam Winright, who had been kind to her, who had loved her as his own child, who had dandled her—yes, and whom she had found here, dead, in this self-same chair, the night she reached home from England.

It was just at this hour.

She put her hands over her eyes, as though to shut out a horrifying vision. Cold chills coursed through her. The sun had gone, and the lake lay dark at the foot of the cliff. Spectral shapes danced on the lawn, and went slinking along the cedars. Perhaps the man in grey was prowling there. Terrors filled her girlish soul, terrors that the hands pressed tight over her eyes could not shut out.

She rose, shaking in every limb, and turned on the lights. She took a few steps toward the windows, still wide open, thinking to close them: then

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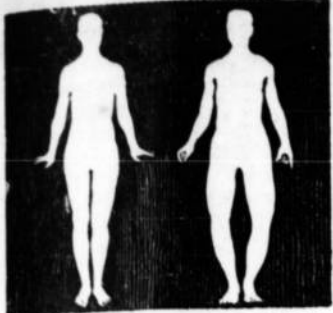
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halted, fearful of what might lurk in the darkness outside. She sat there, bathed in light, drawing from it what comfort she could, haunted by memories.

Half turning, she glanced toward the far corner. The Ross phonoscope was gone. Laura started. The black-mouthed instrument with its circling lenses had vanished from its place. She stared at the spot a long time; then, curiosity getting the better of her cowardice, she crossed to it, and scrutinized the wall.

Then, feeling a bit more cheerful for the light, she moved slowly toward the fire-place. It was here in the ashes that Glory had found the poisoned burr. The thought of the tragedy, now months gone, made her blood run cold. Try as she might to shut it out with other, more cheerful thoughts, it persisted in recurring. This bit of evidence and that came up, and her mind insisted on piecing them together—the night of her home-coming, the chauffeur meeting them at the station, her father's death, herself walking in her sleep, overhearing Chalmers' words, visiting the room where her father lay dead.

Her eyes wide with terror, she stared into the mirror above the mantel. Then, with a sudden cry, she clutched her sleeve.

For the first time she found it easy to think of Ross. She remembered his arms around her, his greasy hands, her laughing words in parting, and—terror-stricken, she stared at the black hand-print that seemed to mirror the handprint of the telegram.

She fancied a distant foot-step in the hallway.

Quickly she drew from her bosom the telegram she had always carried. She unfolded the yellow sheet; she stared at the hand-print marked there; then, shivering, glanced toward the mirrored sleeve.

Joy glowed in her soul. "Thank God, she whispered. "They aren't the same." In her gladness, she could have kissed the greasy stain on her sleeve. She drew it toward her, and uttered another cry.

What she had thought dissimilar lines were merely the mesh of the goods. She drew the sleeve tight, no longer trusting the mirrored image. Relentlessly she compared the two hand-prints.

That deep-marked line pointing to the base of the index finger was the same on both. It bore the identical message to her soul.

A choking sound escaped her. She snatched a match from the mantel, and with passionate fingers struck it.

"This is all there is," she muttered. She held the telegram toward the tiny flame.

Footsteps sounded behind her. She turned, nervously; the match burned her fingers. Hastily she dropped it.

"Miss Winright!" Katie stood in the doorway. Laura Winright crumpled the telegram.

"What am I doing?" she muttered, blankly. "What am I doing?"

With a wild cry she sank on her knees before the fire-place. The timid girl stared at her in affright.

"Oh, God, I can't believe it—I won't believe it. Perhaps—"

Her soul caught hungrily at a straw of hope.

And yet—there stood before her, stern, unalterable, as though carved in everlasting granite, that cruel line, a silent witness against Nick Ross. Bit by bit there sprang forth from it little incidents, linking themselves into a chain, that every instant encircled Nick Ross the more relentlessly.

"Miss Winright! Miss Laura!" The girl was fairly wringing her hands.

Laura heard without understanding.

"I never dreamed," she muttered, her agonized thoughts half spoken. "I never thought of him. And yet—he was the one man here at that hour. He was the one man at every hour within reach of Castle Sunset."

She saw in fancy Nick Ross arrive at the station, hurried, perturbed—Nick Ross, late, apologizing for his lateness, trying by dint of much repeated detail to fix the hour and minute in her memory. She saw his face, white and agitated, in the arc-light's radiance. He had admitted being in the garage, in the grounds, for all of three hours before her father died. He had told

of a young man leaving Castle Sunset at that hour—a young man no one else had seen. The Man in Grey, coming and going as he chose, appearing mysteriously, vanishing quickly, must be an accomplice—she had not thought of that! That—her mind worked quickly—that would explain why at one turn the criminal seemed a poor roust-about, and again gave hint of being a man of culture.

Then there was Adam Winright's palpable interest in Ross and his work—the young fellow's carelessness regarding his duties as chauffeur—his impudence, that had at once angered and charmed her—his free comings and goings—all these things betokening a man with a death grip on the Winright good name.

Hurriedly, confusedly, the girl pieced together little bits of fact into a chain. A cry burst from her.

"He is the one—the only one who could have done it. And—his hand! Oh, God, he is the man!"

"Miss Winright!" Laura rose, no longer trembling, her face set.

"What is it, Katie?" Her tone was dry; her manner hard, as though she would brush aside this interruption, in order to hasten her work of vengeance. At every breath Adam Winright seemed crying out to her. She must do this thing, whatever pangs it cost.

"If you please, Miss, Ross—" "Ross?"

"He's waiting to see you, Miss." Katie welcomed the palpable return of her mistress to sanity.

"Ross." Laura's tone grew harsh, with no hint of wavering. "I'll see Ross. Just tell him to come here."

CHAPTER XXV
The Man in the Ghost Room

Glory Adair reached Detroit too late at night to visit the Winright offices. She spent the next morning there, secured the time-clock records for many months, and made a number of notes from them.

Then she serenely accepted George Annisford's invitation to lunch with him at the grill-room; and spent a good share of the lunch hour in unobtrusive study of his hands.

After leaving Annisford, she spent an hour or more shopping, apparently quite oblivious of any serious mission.

Her shopping done, she went to Harry Burnville's office on Woodward Avenue.

Pat Burnville, smoking assiduously at his reeky pipe, sat disconsolate in the ante-chamber. The nurse's quick mind grasped instantly what that meant. She stalked past the old man, and, without prefatory knock, opened the door of the private office.

Harry Burnville glanced up from his desk, a touch of annoyance in his black eyes. Then a smile chased the frown.

"Miss Adair! I'm immensely pleased!"

She accepted the proffered chair, and went straight to business. Her eyes never left his face.

"You have Mrs. MacTurk's ghost book?"

"Yes." "Will you let me see it?"

"With pleasure." Glory Adair glanced through it, and carelessly handed it back.

"Thank you. Now, I want you to come to Maitland Port with me—at once."

"At once? A rather large order, Miss Adair!"

The detective spoke pleasantly; his face gave no hint of perturbation. Glory Adair did not relent.

"A rather large order," Burnville repeated. "Still, I am adept at filling large orders. Only—why?"

"In fairness to yourself. Also, as a favor to me. I want you to testify when I unfold the true story of the Winright murder."

"Murder?" Burnville rose. "Then you do believe it is murder?"

She nodded.

The detective, clasping his hands behind him, eyed the young woman with unalloyed admiration. She seemed to quite enjoy his homage.

"You are my antagonist in this enquiry?"

"I was."



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"Was? That signifies—?"
 "That the enquiry is closed."
 Burnville laughed, musically.
 "You think so? . . . What if I refuse to help?"

"That is the charming feature of the situation, Mr. Burnville. In justice to yourself, you can't refuse. Remember, I am asking you to volunteer a private statement to—well, to Mr. and Miss Winright, and to myself." She paused a moment. "If you compel me, I can, of course, finish my case quite independent of you. Still, I fancied you would appreciate my proposal."

Burnville made no immediate answer in words. He crossed to the bevelled mirror on the further wall.

"You will pardon me, Miss Adair," he remarked, "but the urgency of the train schedule compels a very hurried preparation for my trip."

With a few deft movements of brush and comb, he slicked his hair into becoming form. He twisted his black moustache to the correct curl, and whisked a few almost invisible specks of dust from his natty summer suit. An

instant he debated his collar and cuffs; then sighed resignedly.

"I am at your service, Miss Adair." He picked up her hand-bag for her. "We have twenty minutes to catch the train."

"Eighteen," corrected the nurse, requisitioning the wrist-watch. "The train time has been changed; and, you see, I scheduled myself to return by this particular train."

Burnville smiled, admiringly.

"I presume," he observed, when they were seated in the railway carriage, "you will vouchsafe no light on your solution of the problem?"

"The presumption is accurate. I move in a silent and mysterious way. Publicity sometimes helps; but this time it comes when my case is finished." His look revealed manifest admiration of her cool serenity.

From that moment, throughout the four hours' journey, he resigned himself to the relentless fate she sweetly personified. Their chat was middle distance between cool and friendly, but concerned itself with commonplaces

only, never venturing close to the one subject uppermost in both minds.

It was near twilight when the train swept past Salkeld's Bush. An instant later the monotonous song of the Maitland Rapids smote Glory's ears. From the window she gazed queerly into the gaping river valley. The man's eyes followed her slightest movement.

"And," he enquired, in a dead whisper, "how soon after you reach Castle Sunset will you—ah—lift the veil?"

"Within an hour."

"Then I accompany you direct to Castle Sunset?"

"That is the program."

She took up her portfolio. "This," she mocked, "is valuable—very. It contains several vital links in my chain of evidence."

With grave politeness Burnville assisted her to alight. Through the taxi-ride to Castle Sunset both sat silent. The girl's fair face wrinkled occasionally into a frown; but no word of her absorbing thoughts escaped her.

"Within an hour, you said?"

She glanced up. They were at their destination. "There is Nick Ross!" She pointed toward the front porch. "He's just going in. And here comes Tom!"

The young fellow sauntered down the walk to meet them.

"You are shivering?" whispered Burnville to the nurse, as the taxi-driver helped her down.

"Am I?" she challenged.

"Evening, Miss Adair," drawled Tom. "How are you, Burnville?" He drew closer. "Any developments?" he whispered.

Miss Adair had preceded them up the walk. Burnville shot a quick glance after her.

"I have none."

Tom's brows lifted. The detective passed on to join Glory Adair. Burnville felt that Tom watched them curiously, but he did not glance back. As he ascended the front steps, Miss Adair laid her hand on his arm.

"This way, please!"

"Why, may I ask?"

"I hear voices."

She stole quietly along the vine-shaded porch, making the half circuit of the house to the west wing and the open French windows of the library.

"Wait here!" she commanded. She shot a backward glance at Tom, still lingering at the gate; then snuggled into concealment behind the veil of vines. Burnville whispered a deprecatory protest.

Glory's smile defied him.

Herself unseen, she gazed into the Ghost Room. The lights were all a gleam. Before the fire-place stood Laura Winright, her slim figure all a quiver, her face set in stern, hard lines.

Nick Ross, a dozen paces distant, gazed at her, a question in his eyes.

"This gets quite past me!"

To the listener amid the vines, the drawing insouciance of other days was gone.

"Must I tell you everything?" challenged Laura.

"Tell me, Laura Winright. Then maybe I'll understand."

The old insolence had vanished from his tones; it lingered in his words. Laura's slim figure swayed. Nick Ross, with arms outstretched, stepped toward her.

"No, no! Don't come near me!" Gripping the edge of the mantel she steadied herself.

"Listen," she went on. "Here, that night, I found my father—dead." Her voice rose to a cry of pain. "I came down here afterward—guided by an avenging providence. I found evidence that a man had been in this room with my father a few minutes before he died. Yet that man gave no alarm! He did not come forward to tell what happened!"

An angry light flashed into Glory's eyes.

Laura's words impetuously rushed forth: "You took us to Castle Sunset that night—Mr. Annisford and myself. That's true. But you were late. And for two hours before my father died, you say you were at the garage. For that, we have your word. You say a young man left Castle Sunset. For that, too, we have your word. It is since you have been here that these ghosts have been seen—that this man in grey has come—that all these troubles have fallen on us. You say my father was generous to you. Why?"

"Honest to goodness, Laura Winright—"

"Don't! Don't!" she cried. "Whoever that man was, he knew Castle Sunset. You are the only man who could have been here. Tom in Detroit—Mr. Annisford with me—if not you, who was the man? Who was the man whose hand-print is on this telegram I found here the night my father—the night Adam Winright died?"

She spread the yellow sheet accusingly before him.

"Look at it," she cried. "And look at this!"

She caught her own white sleeve, and drew it tight. She leaned forward that he might see the better.

"That print is yours—yours from this very afternoon. Here—see—here is that deep line pointing to the index finger. Can you deny that line? If you can't, will you dare deny—?"

"I do deny!"



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Glory Adair, intently listening, heard the quick intaking of the man's breath.

With an inarticulate cry, Laura Winright dropped the telegram. She laid her hands on the chauffeur's shoulders; she looked into his eyes.

"I'd give the world to believe you. Don't you know that? Wasn't I glad this afternoon to give up Castle Sunset—a fortune—an honored name—for you? Wouldn't I give my life for you—right now, gladly, to know that you were innocent? I'd suffer all this heart-break without a pang, if I knew you spoke the truth. But I can't believe you innocent when your own hand bears witness against you."

Nick Ross stood silent under her accusing gaze.

"Only tell me," she pleaded, "tell me why—"

"I was not here that night," he answered, doggedly.

"Don't! Don't!" Laura's voice choked a moment. "I can't believe that. Don't try to tell me. Is it punishment you fear?" She dropped her hands. "Then I withhold it. I let you go free. Only tell me the truth, and break my heart—then go."

She stepped sharply back.

"Go!" she repeated.

Through the open window she pointed to the outer darkness. Nick Ross smiled faintly.

"Ah, but I'm not going!" The old insouciance crept into his manner. "Not till Laura Winright goes with me."

"Oh!" cried Laura, flaming.

Glory Adair clutched Burnville's sleeve.

"This has gone far enough!" she whispered. "Come!"

She swept imperiously into the room. "Laura, are you mad?" Her voice rang clear in the awe-struck silence.

Laura glanced at her wildly.

"Glory, you shall not—must not—stop me! I have found the man who was in the Ghost Room." She pointed an accusing finger at Nick Ross. "Mr. Burnville"—she turned to the detective—"you must arrest that man for the murder of—of my father."

"Miss Winright—"

She interrupted the detective's hurried protest.

"I take full responsibility, Mr. Burnville." She had forgotten she was no longer the great lady, with the Winright fortune back of her.

Burnville did not move. A queer smile flitted across Miss Adair's fair face. Laura, frowning, waited an impatient moment.

"Mr. Burnville!" she repeated.

Glory Adair glanced at the detective. He smiled, darkly. The nurse, stooping, picked up the telegram from the carpet.

"Let me see your hand, Ross," she said.

"Glory!" protested Laura.

Glory whirled on her. For the first and last time Laura Winright saw anger—genuine anger—in the placid eyes.

"Laura Winright!" The tone was passionate. "What do you know of the lines of the hand. What training have you? Just enough to fancy that because you find a single line that corresponds in two hands, they both are identical—when every line must match." She fairly bit off her words. "Here"—she snatched the chauffeur's hand—"compare this with the telegram. Of course they're alike, you say. Hasn't each hand five fingers, and hasn't each hand that deep line running upward toward the index? Child! Child!" She dropped the hand. "Even if this man's hand did correspond, Mr. Burnville must let him go in peace. You can't make a deliberate murderer out of a man who hasn't deliberate murder written in his hand."

The eyes of all were on her. Her soul glowed. Hers by right of daring capture was the centre of the stage.

"Glory," cried Laura, wavering between anger and doubt. "If you know, tell me—tell me now—who was the man in the Ghost Room?"

Glory Adair smiled.

"It is only generous to allow the man in the Ghost Room to reveal himself and tell his own story." She stood silent a moment; then bowed:

"Mr. Burnville."

(To be continued next week)

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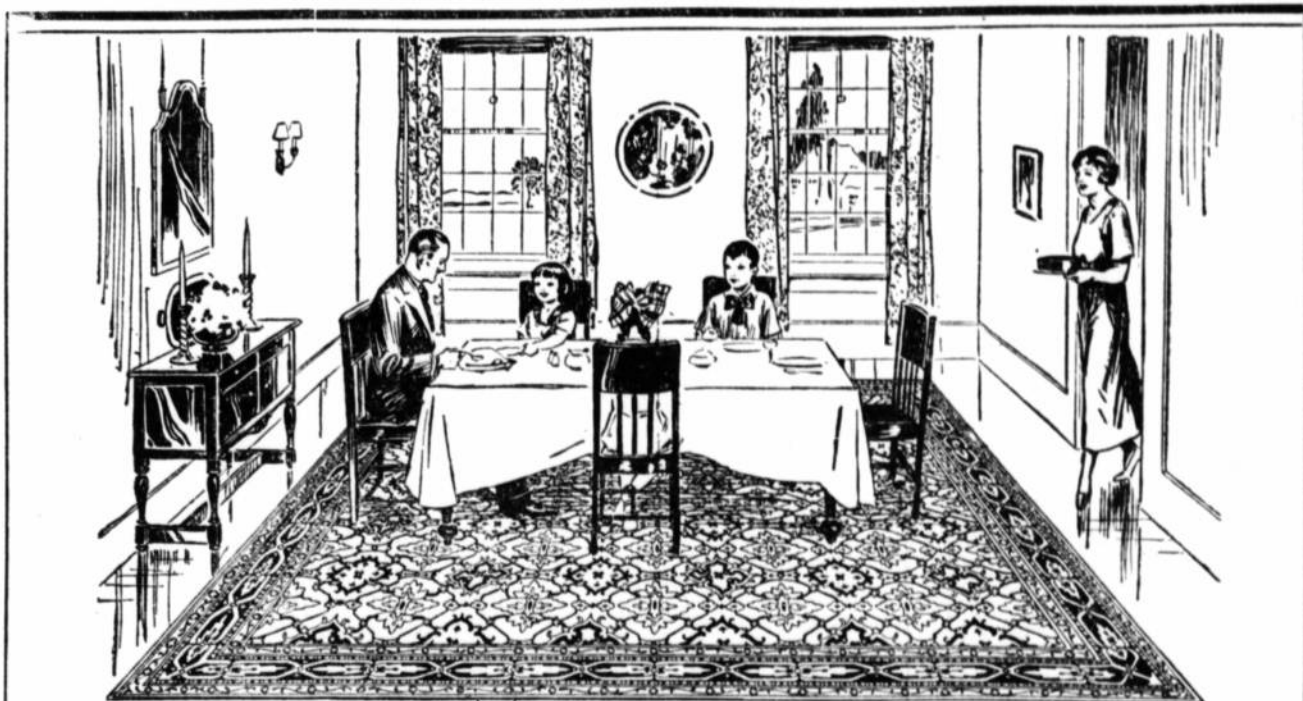
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The Countrywoman

Miss Bondfield in Canada

CANADA has a very interesting visitor these days in the person of Miss Margaret Bondfield. During the past year the press has carried many articles on Miss Bondfield, telling the romance of the rise of the little girl from Somersetshire, who went to London and worked as a shop-hand, to the foremost ranks of the Labor movement and of the British parliament. It will be remembered by The Guide readers that Miss Bondfield was the first woman in Great Britain to win a ministry post, and that she now is parliamentary secretary of Labor. It will also be remembered she has had the distinction of being the first woman elected chairman of the General Council of the Trades and Union Congress of Great Britain.

Miss Bondfield is touring Canada as the chairman of a committee to investigate British settlement here, and to especially enquire into the welfare of the child immigrant. With her are three others: Mr. Plant, Mr. Garnett and Mrs. Harrison Bell. They expect to spend about one month in Canada, and will, in that time, travel from the eastern coast to the western and back again, making stops of two and three days duration at important points. Already the committee has made a stop in Winnipeg, and is now on its way further west.

The visit of Miss Bondfield and the other members of the committee to Winnipeg is of particular interest, as it shows the manner in which they are collecting information, and also gives us an idea of the main lines along which they are working.

The dominant personality, of course, is Miss Bondfield, the chairman. She is a plainly dressed little woman, quick of manner, with a quiet decisive way of speaking. She has a charming voice and kindly brown eyes. She shows a very strong determination to stay strictly to the business in hand, and refused invitations to social gatherings and public meetings—not by any means could her new Canadian friends persuade her to discuss political matters in Great Britain. She is here to find out all she can about immigration, and she spent good ten and twelve-hour days going about working on that subject alone. She visited various child-caring institutions, interviewed government officials, officers of farm and labor organizations, and others in a position to express an opinion on any phase of immigration. She makes her own selection of those she wishes to interview. Miss Bondfield is an expert at extracting information. Many of those who went to her wishing to get information found themselves in the position of being the persons interviewed. She displayed a remarkable ability to absorb and classify the opinions given. Her insistence that interviews and conferences be private enabled her to get quickly at the heart of the problem she was investigating.

Miss Bondfield only consented to address one public gathering while in Winnipeg, and that was a joint meeting of the Men's and the Women's Canadian Clubs.

Miss Bondfield pointed out in her address that British emigration to Canada must not be looked upon as a solution of the problem of unemployment—that Great Britain had no desire to dump her people into Canada, but that the responsibility of selection must remain with Canada. She wanted, she said, to find out the possibilities of group settlement, where whole families could be brought over and settled together. She wanted to know what were the possibilities for the employment of single women in Canada, both on the farms and in the cities. And most of all she wanted to know what Canadians thought about child immigration—what was the best age for a child to be brought here so that it could be absorbed without difficulty into Canadian life and customs. She wanted to know if the immigrant chil-

dren here were being properly cared for.

Canadians of a serious turn of mind have been thinking about the matter of child immigration for some time past. Miss Bondfield's visit has awakened new interest in the question. Children are brought here from the old lands by various agencies. They are given out for adoption or kept in institutions. A question has been raised as to the adequacy of the inspection and supervision of the homes where children are adopted or placed as workers. It is going to be interesting to watch the results of Miss Bondfield's visit both here and in Great Britain.

School Attendance Regulations

A recent issue of the Public Service Monthly, published by the Saskatchewan government, contains a resume of the new duties placed upon teachers and trustees in the administration of the School Act, by A. H. Ball, deputy minister of education. The new regulations came into effect in 1923, and are of interest to parents as well as school officers.

Mr. Ball points out that under the new Attendance Act, every child between the ages of seven and fifteen years must attend school regularly. If a child has been in attendance 80 per cent. of the actual school days in each month it will not be necessary for a local attendance officer to take any action. If the child is attending school irregularly the board of trustees may, by resolution, require the officer to prosecute the parents or guardians. The attendance officer may institute proceedings against such a parent or guardian. Penalties are provided for irregular or non-attendance.

Every school board must appoint a local attendance officer, and must advise the chief attendance officer of the Department of Education of such appointment before the first of February. They must give the name and address of the officer. No grants are payable to any school district until this has been done.

Attendance officers must, within 15 days after the school has opened, furnish the teacher and the board with the name and age of every child over seven and under fifteen residing in the district. It is the duty of the teacher to report to the attendance officer at the end of each month the names of the children of school age who have not been attending regularly.

Casting Off Fetters

A writer recently stated that "the past and the neighbors are our heaviest fetters," for even in this enlightened age people do things because their foremothers believed them necessary, and still insist on performing certain "duties" for fear Mrs. Jones will think them queer.

Many of us have inherited the idea that sheets should be ironed—time-honored custom has decreed it. Our grandmothers would have been horrified if this rite were omitted, and their neighbors would probably have been scandalized at the very thought of such a thing. In those balmy days, however, help was more plentiful than in 1924, and women were not carrying such weary loads. By pinning the sheets in such a way as to allow prairie winds to remove creases, much labor is saved, and if folded neatly the sheets are equally as comfortable to sleep between as they were years ago.

The same thing is true of tea towels which can be folded smoothly and laid away without being touched by an iron. In this condition they are just as satisfactory for drying dishes. Anyone wishing to cast off still more shackles can reduce the number of tea towels to be washed by using a dish drier. Much work is also saved by pouring boiling water over dishes that have been washed, and allowing them to stand till dry. Old-fashioned neighbors may have prejudiced opinions, but where the strength of a woman is concerned they have to be disregarded.

Huckaback towels were used extensively in the past and required careful washing and ironing. In fact our foremothers would not dream of using anything else for the face and hands. Homemakers, today, are learning to substitute Turkish towelling for everyday use, because its looser weave makes it easier to launder, and it needs no ironing.

Some people still believe that it is a disgrace to be found sitting at their work, or relaxing for a few minutes in the middle of a long morning. Old-fashioned notions such as these have to be thrown overboard in an age when unusually heavy demands are made upon a woman's strength.

We have been in certain districts where meals for the threshers are nothing short of "spreads," just because Mrs. Smith always made a point of providing pie three times a day and serving fancy dishes. There is never a time when men need nourishing meals more than in the threshing season, but the average man does not want such elaborate meals, and is satisfied with plenty of plain, substantial food. Any one, who from fear of what others will say, allows herself to become overworked in this way is forging another link to the chain which already fetters her. Whether or not she will permit the past and the neighbors to impede her progress, is a matter for every woman to decide.

Getting New Notions

In sending a contribution to our labor-saving department, a faithful reader of The Guide made this remark: "All the women who see our home-made cooler, go home and bother the life out of their hubbies until they have one installed. I am not a favorite with the men in the neighborhood, for I am always getting some new notion, and once their good wives see the ideas in operation they begin to pester the life out of their men-folk until they get one, too. As one good fellow said to his wife, 'I wish you would stay away from L—s—he's too handy, and it gets me in wrong.'"

This very "getting of new notions" is the best thing that can happen to any homemaker, for it is so easy to fall into a rut and to accept conditions as inevitable. Why should any one work in a woman-killing kitchen for years without re-arranging the equipment so that the various processes can be carried out with the least expenditure of energy. Why should a tall person do her work at a table so low that she has to maintain an unnatural position and so use her strength extravagantly? Each woman owes it to herself to use all her ingenuity to make her workshop more efficient. The advice and help of the men-folk is often of assistance, for in their work they see to it that the least possible energy is wasted.

In addition to putting the family brains to work it is a fine thing to get out and see what schemes other people have for saving labor. Our correspondent evidently is accustomed to having neighborly visits from time to time. Exchange of ideas is excellent, whether it is in the home or at a meeting of the farm women's club. An afternoon given over to the discussion of a convenient arrangement of the kitchen is time well spent. On another occasion the question of home-made labor savers provides an interesting program. Those who have portable equipment could bring it to the meeting and could explain how it is made, how it can be improved upon, and how much labor it saves. One of the best things a club ever did was to organize a tour around the various homes of the district so that the members could get inspiration from each other's "workshop."

By using ingenuity, by exchanging ideas with others, and by reading magazines, much can be done to prevent the appalling waste of woman-power that is going on in many farm homes today.

Mothers and Daughters

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Thousands are finding wonderful relief in just a few days. Nuga-Tone brings back new life and vigor to their worn-out nerves and muscles. Builds red blood, strong, steady nerves and increases most wonderfully your power of endurance. Brings refreshing sleep, good appetite, fine digestion, regular bowel movement, lots of enthusiasm and ambition. If you are not feeling just right you owe it to yourself to give it a trial. It costs you nothing if you are not benefited. It is pleasant to take and you will begin to feel better right away. If your physician has not already prescribed it for you, just go to the druggist and get a bottle of Nuga-Tone. Take no substitute. Take it a few days and if you do not feel better and look better, take the remainder of the package to the druggist and he will give you your money back. The manufacturers of Nuga-Tone request all druggists to guarantee it and refund your money when you are not satisfied. Recommended, guaranteed and for sale by all druggists.

A Lop-sided Treaty

Continued from Page 3

parliament and awaits only an order-in-council to bring it into effect. This is the increase on raisins and currants, and if the other items are to be treated in the same way the treaty is likely to precipitate a first-class political crisis in this country.

The present tariff on raisins and dried currants is: British preferential rate $\frac{1}{2}$ cent a pound; intermediate and general tariff rate $\frac{2}{3}$ cent a pound. In 1923 Hon. W. S. Fielding put through an amendment to the tariff providing for the following change in this item: British preferential rate, free; intermediate and general tariff rate, 3 cents a pound. This change was not to come into effect except upon the passing of an order-in-council, and Mr. Fielding explained that the change was being introduced for the purpose of inducing the Australians to conclude a reciprocal trade treaty. "It is a rare thing in this budget to have any proposal to increase taxation," he said, but the exception was this item, and he hoped that it would "go far to make them (the Australians) content with our scheme and bring about an agreement." Mr. Fielding made no mention of any other increases in the tariff to promote contentment in the sister Dominion, but he had to listen to sufficient protests against this one increase to satisfy any reasonable mind that whatever it was doing in Australia it certainly was not promoting contentment in Canada.

Increased Cost of Living

Mr. Fielding, it will be noticed, admits that the change means increased taxation. There is thus no necessity to argue this point; a Liberal government which declares that its policy is to reduce taxation so as to lower the cost of living, proposes an increase in the tariff which will increase taxation and add to the cost of living. How much? Excluding the imports from Great Britain and Australia, imports of raisins and dried currants for the year ended March 31, 1924, totalled 43,842,396 pounds. The proposed increase in the duty on these imports is from $\frac{2}{3}$ of a cent to 3 cents a pound, which means an additional taxation of $2\frac{1}{3}$ cents a pound, or \$1,022,989. This is the amount which, on 1924 importations, the people of Canada will have to pay in additional taxes on raisins and currants. It is not the total sum that the increase in the duty will compel them to pay. The increased duty will appear in the price of all imports because the Australians need that additional $2\frac{1}{3}$ cents to enable them to compete in the Canadian market. The total imports of raisins and currants for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1924, were 38,792,039 pounds of raisins, and 5,598,777 pounds of currants, which at $2\frac{1}{3}$ cents a pound means an additional cost to the buyers of \$1,035,750. To this increase there must be added the corresponding increase in the amount of the sales tax, which is always paid on the duty-paid value of the imports, and also the corresponding increase in the retailers' profit; altogether the increase in the duty will increase the price at the very least by $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents a pound. For the prairie provinces alone the increased price of raisins and currants, due to this change in the tariff to encourage trade with Australia, means a toll of approximately \$250,000 a year. The farmers of these provinces have to pay that much more for their raisins and currants to help out the farmers of Australia.

Cannot Supply Demand

Australia in 1921-22, according to the Official Year Book of the Commonwealth for 1923, produced 30,242,240 pounds of raisins and 18,159,232 pounds of currants. Of this she exported 12,986,553 pounds of raisins and 10,937,598 pounds of currants, requirements for home consumption being thus 17,255,687 pounds of raisins and 7,221,634 pounds of currants. Canada, during the fiscal year ending March 31, 1924, imported 38,792,039 pounds of raisins and 5,598,777 pounds of dried currants. It will be seen that our imports of raisins exceeded the total production of Australia by over 8,000,000 pounds, while

Home For Christmas

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Montreal	Nov. 6	S.S. Montreal	to Belfast, Glasgow
Montreal	Nov. 7	S.S. Montclare	to Liverpool
Montreal	Nov. 12	S.S. Minnedosa	to Cherbourg, Southampton, Antwerp
Montreal	Nov. 13	S.S. Metagama	to Belfast, Glasgow
Quebec	Nov. 14	S.S. Montclair	to Liverpool
Quebec	Nov. 19	S.S. Empress of Scotland	to Cherbourg, Southampton
Montreal	Nov. 20	S.S. Marloch	to Belfast, Glasgow
Montreal	Nov. 21	S.S. Montcalm	to Liverpool
Montreal	Nov. 26	S.S. Melita	to Belfast, Glasgow
Montreal	Nov. 26	S.S. Montrose	to Liverpool
St. John	Dec. 5	S.S. Montclare	to Liverpool
St. John	Dec. 10	S.S. Minnedosa	to Cherbourg, Southampton, Antwerp
St. John	Dec. 11	S.S. Metagama	to Belfast, Glasgow
St. John	Dec. 12	S.S. Montclair	to Liverpool
St. John	Dec. 16	S.S. Montcalm	to Liverpool

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the total exports of raisins from Australia fell short of our total imports by nearly 26,000,000 pounds. In currants Australia could conceivably supply our requirements, but it would be at the cost of abandoning markets she has already secured, which would scarcely be good business. Of our imports of raisins for the year mentioned 35,690,194 pounds came from the United States, and only 29,502 pounds from Australia: of dried currants in the same year we imported 4,768,228 pounds from Greece, and 219,340 pounds from Australia. These figures make it evident that even if it were a practicable proposition, it would take Australia many years to develop her raisin and currant production so as to adequately meet the demand in Canada, and in the meantime the Canadian people would be paying through the nose for their raisins and currants for the benefit of the Australian producers. And not alone the Canadian people: one other effect of this creation of a special market in Canada for Australian raisins and currants will be to increase the price of these dried fruits in Australia as well as in Canada, for it is to be presumed that the additional duty on competitive goods makes the market a profitable one for the Australian produce. That being the case, the price in Australia will rise to include the advantage, whatever it is, and our generosity will not be much appreciated by the Australian consumer, provided he understands why the price of his raisins and currants went up.

The Farmer Pays

The desire to stimulate and develop

trade with Australia is of course laudable, but true reciprocity removes and does not create obstacles to freedom of trade. It is true our trade with Australia looks lop-sided. Last year we exported to Australia, goods to the value of \$19,924,000 and imported goods to the value of \$1,037,000. On the face of it the business is not balanced, but Australia pays somehow for the difference, and one way in which she pays is by utilizing the big credits she has stacked up in London. The Australian tariff is heavier than the Canadian tariff and if Canadian exporters could do a business of nearly \$20,000,000 in Australia despite the tariff there was certainly nothing to prevent the Australian exporter doing likewise in the Canadian market.

Our principal exports to Australia are automobiles and parts, lumber, rubber goods, canned salmon, agricultural implements and paper. These make up about 85 per cent. of our exports to Australia, and automobiles account for one-half of this trade, with lumber accounting for about \$4,000,000 of it. It will be noticed that these goods receive special treatment in the treaty but not a word is said among the Australian concessions of any produce of the farm. The treaty does give the Australian farmer a profitable market for his raisins and currants in Canada, and it will tend to reduce the price he has to pay for his rubber goods, canned salmon, automobiles and agricultural implements. It is a pretty good treaty for the Australian farmer and reflects considerable credit on his government for its bargaining ability.

For the Canadian farmer it means an

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increase in his cost of living, increased competition in his home market with agricultural products from Australia, and not the prospect of a reduced price for manufactured goods of any kind. From his standpoint, the Australian government put it all over the Canadian government. The treaty may be very acceptable to certain manufacturers and the canners of salmon, but from the standpoint of the mass of the people it is the kind of reciprocal trade agreement that the country would be better without.—J. T. H.

NICKY MUTT, THE PHOTOGRAPHER

To begin at the beginning—it's likely nothing would have happened, if Nicky hadn't lost his temper and kicked his pet elephant, Tiny. "Get out!" he yelled, and Tiny fled. But anyone will tell you elephants never forget. Tiny was disgusted at the ingratitude and bad manners of naughty Nicky, and he made up his mind to even matters up. Nicky had his camera set up on its tripod, waiting for a subject, and he had not long to wait. Along came Flannelfeet. He carries his night stick with the air of a field marshal with a baton. His brass buttons shine like stars in the sky. He is proud of himself and he shows it. "Ah," says he to Nicky, "a nice camera you have there, very nice indeed. Would you like to photograph me?" What more could a wayside photographer ask? "With pleasure," responds Nicholas. "Strike a good pose." Any pose is a picture for the officer, but he draws himself up to his best. Head up, chin in; chest out; waist in; one leg on parade, the other at rest; one arm across his chest. "Perfect!" exclaims Nicky, "absolutely perfect!" Now must we leave this field of art. We must locate Tiny, the elephant that never forgets. Here he is at a mud puddle, happy as a pig at a wallow. His trunk is in the water and he's storing up enough liquid for a fire engine. From the corner of his mischievous eye he glimpses the drama of elegance being enacted by Nicky and Flannelfeet. And something in that eye indicates he contemplates making it a comedy. Back again to the photographer and his subject—All is calm, all is right. Nicky's hand is on the bulb, his eyes are on the bulge. Flannelfeet maintains his glorious pose. Swis-s-s-s-s! The scene of beauty becomes a puddle, the field of art becomes a field of battle. Tiny, his trunk acting like a fire hose, sprays the magnificence of Flannelfeet's uniform, his brass buttons, his helmet, his badge, his star. Naturally, the officer thinks it's a conspiracy. He smites Nicky and smashes the camera. He strides away. Nicky weeps. Tiny laughs.



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Agricultural Schools Open

The Olds school of agriculture is opening its doors for the twelfth year on October 28, and the staff is planning for classes that will again tax the available accommodation. Principal Grisdale, in looking back over the records, reminds us that in the past 12 years 1,300 regular students and 2,000 short-course students have been enrolled, one-third of that number being women taking domestic science training.

It is gratifying also to note that the attendance has been steady each year; that is, in the recent bad years there has been no falling off in mem-

bership. The Olds school has come to play a very important part in the improvement of agriculture in central Alberta, and there seems to be a growing recognition that harder times call for increased knowledge and training on the part of the farmer who hopes to make ends meet.

The Olds school has earned the best recommendation that can be accorded to any institution of its kind in the large number of young men and women who have gone out from its halls, attaining distinction at the University at Edmonton, and later in their respective community circles or in the larger world of affairs.

The Open Forum

"Let truth and falsehood grapple. Who ever knew truth put to the worse in a free and open encounter?"—Milton.

The Guide assumes no responsibility for the opinions expressed by correspondents in this department. It is requested that letters be confined to 500 words in length, that one subject only be discussed in a letter, and that letters be written on one side of the paper only, and written very plainly (preferably in ink).

Threshing Charges

The Editor.—I ask you to publish the following in the interests of the poor farmers of Western Canada.

I noticed sometime ago a grain thresher in Manitoba or Saskatchewan trying to justify the high charges for threshing grain, on the ground that he had not been able to make more than he reasonably ought last year. Of course, he knows that if 40c were charged some of us would lose money. Such should not thresh.

On reliable authority I say, two men in Northern Saskatchewan last year each bought a threshing outfit and paid out for them in the one season, and one of them at least had money left.

It has been found that men can combine, buy an outfit, put the usual charge for everything and thresh their grain for four and five cents.

In or about the year 1919, my neighbor, an efficient thresher, said to me that he could not thresh for me by the bushel on account of the poor turn out of the crop, but that he had been looking over my crop and he would thresh it for \$60. He came and did. When done he said that I had a better bargain than other people had. I said that I was willing to pay all necessary for him to not only not lose but make what he ought. He said that to do that he would have to have \$15 more. I said, "Here it is." That year my oats and wheat were threshed for five and six cents per bushel, but the thresher had not noticed that fact.

The next year, our crops were good, the turn out good, as usually it is, but the charge was 12c and 20c, and we had to pay it. The expenses were no higher than the year before. A fair price would be six and nine cents. We admit the venture buying a big outfit, hence say six and nine cents. Every farmer that can, either buys an outfit himself or goes into partnership to get a share in one, but the great majority of us can do neither. Grim poverty is our lot, work as we will. What with high freight rates, high cost of living, high price for implements of every kind, high taxes, exorbitantly so, because of high salaries for teachers and municipal officers, as well as all kinds of labor, we are, that is the great majority of the people are, in grim poverty.

All admit, and most of us preach that the farmer is the backbone of the country, but who tries to protect him against loss? Coal oil and gasoline are double here what they are across the line and often more. What the western farmer has to sell is lower, and what he has to buy is higher—engines, automobiles, implements, and yet some of us can be persuaded to vote against free trade. Notwithstanding that the poor western farmer is scarcely able to clothe his family, feed those that are depending on him let alone pay his debts or help on the cause that needs, that is always the cause of God.—Laboring Man, Gallivan, Sask.

Farm Land Prices

The Editor.—If those responsible for the economic well-being of the country, especially the West, are seriously essaying to make a better showing of progress than in the last generation, it might be well and also useful for them to note how successful countries of the same age have gained their position and take a leaf out of their book.

The farming part of Argentina as (opposed to the ranching part) is one network of railways, also it is not considered profitable to farm more than 12 miles from the railway line (I believe grain is hauled 30 or 40 miles as a regular thing in many parts of Canada). The C.P.R. had some such practical thought as the Argentine when they obtained their land 20 miles either side their railways.

Farming land is outrageously high in Argentina as in Canada. The successful period in Canada was that of cheap land and free range, and the present level of land prices most everywhere, including Canada, is one of the principal obstacles to making a living on the land today. Those owning much land in the British Isles now safeguard their other property by incorporating their land under the limited liability laws, to confine their loss if sold up for taxes.

The cost of the administration of Canada would astonish the world, that is compared with other countries of her size and popu-

lation.—H. F. Willoughby Greenhill, 547 East 12th Street, Oakland.

Taxation

The Editor.—I have read with keen interest Mr. Kennedy's letter on direct taxation in the August 20 issue of The Guide.

The writer had the privilege of being a visiting delegate, "from a rural municipality" to an urban convention about 1918.

Taxation was the great topic, and land values, business and what not were discussed, till one got tired of listening and wondered what it all meant.

When I had given up all hope of understanding what was wrong with urban taxation, a ray of light was shed on the proceedings by a man getting up and addressing the crowd somewhat as follows:

"Gentlemen, we have been content to let land values take the big end in providing taxes." At this point someone butted in, and said, prove your statement. The speaker said all right, every person who has not had his finger in the real estate pie, stand up; only one man stood up.

Apparently they were quite willing to let George do it, but the old story of making bricks without straw, or killing the goose which laid the golden egg, or never missing the water till the well runs dry, were not things to be considered very seriously, till George quit the job.

Thinking, along the lines laid down by Mr. Kennedy, could not some detailed plan be devised whereby our national expenditure could be arranged and assessment based on land values in rural municipalities, and whatever would approximate that idea in urban centres, and that in the simplest form possible.

For example, take our rural municipalities, we collect for the provincial revenue, this tax comes on the regular assessment, and is collected the same as telephones or municipal hall, etc.

Why not have a tax spread over the rural assessment which would bring the value of the income tax, or better still to cover the rural portions share of national expenditure, this to include the national debt as well.

Surely this would be more economical than filing in income tax returns, and would bring in the money more uniformly than the present system.

The mystery surrounding an indirect tax ought certainly to be done away with, and when a system of direct taxation takes the place of the other system, public morality will have advanced at least one step ahead.

What more simple than our postal system, and yet one letter may contain a "dinner," and another be filled with endearing language, and a three-cent stamp

will convey each message to its destination.

So whether a man grew cabbages or wheat, or was engaged in making a hoe or binder, surely some plan could be thought out, which would be equally simple in its operation, and equally effective in producing results.

For when we get down to rock bottom, the commodity provided by one set of toilers, must be paid for by the commodity provided by another set of toilers.—John W. Cuthbert, Chamberlain, Sask.



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which Plays
All Makes
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Phonograph

**\$100 After
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Most Beautiful Phonograph Outfit

An offer which removes all risk and doubt. Enables you to hear its wonderful tone and to inspect its beautiful design. Sent on free trial. You are the sole judge. If you like it, keep it, and send us only \$1.00 as first payment, after the free trial. Easy monthly payments after trial.

**20 Selections
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We include, without charge 10 double-faced records—20 selections

Write! Send letter or postcard today asking for free literature which gives you complete information about this unusual offer. Write for it today.

BABSON BROS. Ltd., Dept. P317

311 King Street East, Toronto

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**MAX Tanks, Troughs
and Heaters**

Max House Tanks, Stock Troughs and Heaters, built of Keystone Copper-Steel—made strong to last long—

**FOR LESS MONEY
GET OUR PRICES**

Did you see our bargain list at your dealers? It will pay you to look it over.

**WESTERN STEEL
PRODUCTS LTD.**

WINNIPEG REGINA SASKATOON
CALGARY EDMONTON PORT ARTHUR

**1000 EGGS
In EVERY HEN**

**If You Keep Chickens
CUT THIS OUT**

"The great trouble with the poultry business has always been that the laying life of a hen was too short," says Henry Trafford, International Poultry Expert and Breeder, for nearly eighteen years editor of Poultry Success.

The average pullet lays 150 eggs. If kept the second year, she may lay 100 more. Then she goes to market. Yet it has been scientifically established that every pullet is born or hatched with over one thousand minute egg germs in her system—and will lay them on a highly-profitable basis over a period of four to six years' time if given proper care.

How to work to get 1,000 eggs from every hen; how to get pullets laying early;

how to make the old hens lay like pullets; how to keep up heavy egg production all through cold winter months when eggs are highest; triple egg production; make slacker hens hustle. These and many other money-making poultry secrets are contained in Mr. Trafford's "1,000 EGG HEN" system of poultry raising, one copy of which will be sent absolutely free to any reader of this paper who keeps six hens or more. There is big profit for the poultry keeper who gets the eggs. Mr. Trafford tells how. If you keep chickens and want them to make money for you, cut out this ad. and send it with your name and address to Henry Trafford, Suite 331K, Herald Bldg., Binghamton, N.Y., and a free copy of "The 1,000 EGG HEN" will be sent by return mail.

THE FARMERS' MARKET PLACE

WHERE YOU BUY, SELL OR EXCHANGE

FARMERS' CLASSIFIED—Farmers' advertising of livestock, poultry, seed grain, machinery, etc., 9 cents per word per week where ad. is ordered for one or two consecutive weeks—8 cents per word per week if ordered for three or four consecutive weeks—7 cents per word per week if ordered for five or six consecutive weeks. Count each initial as a full word, also count each set of four figures as a full word, as for example: "T. P. White has 2,100 acres for sale" contains eight words. Be sure and sign your name and address. Do not have any answers come to The Guide. The name and address must be counted as part of the advertisement and paid for at the same rate. All advertisements must be classified under the heading which applies most closely to the article advertised. All orders for Classified Advertising must be accompanied by cash. Advertisements for this page must reach us seven days in advance of publication day, which is every Wednesday. Orders for cancellation must also reach us seven days in advance.

FARMER DISPLAY CLASSIFIED—\$5.60 per inch per week. All orders must be accompanied by cash. Stock cuts supplied free of charge. Cuts made to order cost \$5.00 each.

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Address all letters to The Grain Growers' Guide, Winnipeg, Man.

THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE IS READ BY MORE THAN 75,000 PROSPECTIVE BUYERS

LIVESTOCK—Various

THE ALAMEDA STOCK FARM COMPANY Ltd., Alameda, Sask., have for sale, at reduced prices, a number of Shetland ponies (colts, yearlings and two-year-olds); and the best lot of Shorthorn heifers and bulls we ever offered for sale. Correspondence solicited. R. H. Scott, manager.

CATTLE—Various

STOCKERS AND FEEDERS BOUGHT ON Order—Our established cattle buying department enables us to render unequalled service to cash or credit customers. Manitoba Cattle Loan Company, Stock Yards, Winnipeg. 38-5

Aberdeen-Angus

FOR SALE—MY ENTIRE IMPORTED ABERDEEN-ANGUS herd, \$650, 14 head. Edwin Gedcke, Nut Lake, Sask. 39-4

Shorthorns

DUAL-PURPOSE SHORTHORNS—SOME beauties. Ideal for beef and milk. Let me ship a young heifer or bull crated by express. Get into the best. Percy Neale, Lovat, Sask. 41-5

Holsteins

SELLING—REGISTERED HOLSTEINS. MY entire herd, comprising 18 females, four males. All cows just fresh or due the next two months. Come and see them. Harold Chrysler, Yorkton. 42-4

SELLING—PURE-BRED HOLSTEIN BULL calf, eight months old, with papers. Wm. Conrad, Estevan, Sask. 41-2

Herefords

HEREFORD BULL CALVES FROM \$25 UP, FOR sale. John R. Dutton, Gilbert Plains, Man. 42-4

SWINE—Various

LARGE BLACK, THE BREED THAT PAYS; weanlings, \$12; other ages, write for price. L. Patterson, Hughenden, Alta. 42-2

Yorkshires

REGISTERED YORKSHIRES, FROM MATURE stock. Weanlings, \$10; sows and bours, ready for service, \$25; papers and crates free. R. S. Baird, Sifton, Sask. 41-6

SELLING—YORKSHIRES, Sired by SON, grand champion, five months, \$12. Roach, Douglaston, Sask. 41-3

PURE-BRED YORKSHIRES, EIGHT WEEKS, \$5.00, papers extra. L. Sandberg, Buffalo Head, Sask. 42-2

LONG BODIED, REGISTERED YORKSHIRES, five months old, either sex, \$15 each, papers free. Albert Henwood, Grand View, Man. 42-3

CHAMPION STRAIN YORKSHIRE BOARS for service, \$25. Ellenton, Idlesleigh, Alta. 42-3

YORKSHIRES OUR SPECIALTY. R. MEERS, Manville, Alta. 40-5

Hampshires

McGILL'S HAMPSHIRE—WEANLINGS, TWO for \$15. Also offering fine breed sows and splendid bunch spring bours. Pigs always pay; well-bred Hampshires pay better. McGill, Riverhurst, Sask. 40-3

REGISTERED HAMPSHIRE PIGS, APRIL AND May litters, \$15 and \$18 each. A. F. Clark, Carlyle, Sask. 42-3

Tamworths

TAMWORTH, WEANLINGS, FROM QUALITY stock, \$10, with papers. Demonstration Farm, Killarney, Man. 42-5

Poland-Chinas

PURE-BRED POLAND-CHINA GILTS, EIGHT, months old, \$16 each, papers included. Iva Olofson, Manor, Sask. 42-2

Berkshires

REAL BACON-TYPE BERKSHIRES FOR years we have had the Champion Berkshire Word of Western Canada at all the large exhibitions. Very special offerings now in young bours and young sows. Write for booklet and information.—VAUXHALL STOCK FARMS LTD., VAUXHALL, ALBERTA.

MEADOWLAND FARM BERKSHIRES ARE good bours. Selected April bours, \$20. M. W. Bailey, Druld, Sask. 40-6

SHEEP

FOR SALE—SUFFOLK, SHROPSHIRE AND Southdown rams and ewes, high-class quality. Satisfaction guaranteed. Wm. Darnbrough, Laura, Sask. 33-6

11 PURE-BRED OXFORD RAM LAMBS, \$25; nine shenrings, \$40. From imported sire. Charles Gohn, Froude, Sask. 42-2

12 OXFORD RAMS AND SOME GRADE EWES reasonably priced for sale. W. G. Hartley, Waskada, Man. 42-2

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE—PEGUEE Leicester ram. James McRae, Grandview, Man. 42-2

PURE-BRED OXFORD DOWN RAM LAMBS, \$25. Hart Bros., Gladstone, Man. 42-3

GOATS

SELLING—ANGORA GOAT AND BILLY, BILLY broke to drive. Box 4, Loreburn, Sask. 42-2

DOGS, FOXES AND PET STOCK

SILVER BLACK FOXES

When buying Foxes as foundation stock for your ranch, you will make no mistake in communicating with us. Prices right. Quality the best. All foxes government registered.

BIRNIE SILVER BLACK FOX CO.
608 LOMBARD BUILDING
WINNIPEG

LIVESTOCK—Various

REAL COLLIE PUPS—FATHER IS REGIS-tered, direct descendant of Clinker, world's champion, sold for \$12,500. Registered males, \$13; females, \$11; unregistered, \$10 and \$8.00. Get a good dog to drive the cattle. Unsolicited testimonials. Percy Neale, Lovat, Sask. 38-5

CHINCHILLA AND WHITE FLEMISH YOUNG stock now available. Opportunity is knocking at your door. Order today and start in the profitable fur business. Hurst Rabbit Farm, Sidney, B.C. 40-5

GREYHOUND PUPS, THE LARGE KIND, from fast and sure killers, \$12 each, registered, \$15 each. Write me for coyote hounds of the different breeds. Fox terrier pups, males, \$8.00; females, \$5.00. Percy Neale, Lovat, Sask. 38-5

IF YOU WANT TO START RIGHT WITH Silver Foxes and win success and independence write J. R. Young and Company, 708 McIntyre Building, Winnipeg. 42-3

COLLIE PUPS, FROM HEELING PARENTS, \$7.00; Foxhound and Irish bound cross pups, \$5.00; also Wolfhounds, all ages. Write William Leyh, Viscount, Sask. 42-3

BEFORE PURCHASING FOXES BE SURE TO get the best. See Macvicar, Canada West Silver Black Fox Co. Ltd., 345 Somerset Block, Winnipeg, Canada. 31-13

WOLFHOUSES, Sired by QUICKER CAN-non, sweetstake Manhattan and Selida, U.S.A. Park Kennels, Venn, Sask. 41-6

PEDIGREED NEWFOUNDLAND PUPPIES always on hand. R. A. Gillespie, Abbotsford, Que. 39-10

FOXHOUSES, BLOODHOUSES, PUPS AND trained hounds, both sexes for sale. Cole, Bittern Lake, Alta. 38-6

SELLING—WOLFHOUSES PUPS, EIGHT months. T. Zehner, Southey, Sask. 42-2

POULTRY—Various

FOR SALE—WHITE WYANDOTTE COCKER-els, \$1.50 each; also white Pekin ducks, \$1.50 each. Thos. Anderson, Kelvington, Sask. 42-2

Turkeys, Ducks and Geese

MAMMOTH BRONZE TURKEY HENS, \$2.50; gobblers, \$3.50; Rouen ducks or drakes, \$1.50 each. Mrs. Carl Nelson, Rex, Sask. 42-2

LARGE, PURE-BRED TOULOUSE GEES, \$3.50. George Newsome, Coude, Sask. 42-4

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IMPORTED BARRED ROCK COCKERELS, Chaplin's direct, over 300-egg strain. Best in Canada. Government test. \$2.00 and \$3.00. Order today. Sutherland, RR 314, Winnipeg. 42-2

SELLING—PURE-BRED BARRED ROCK cockerels, \$1.00 each. Mrs. Arthur Enzenauer, Box 277, Lloydminster, Sask. 42-3

Leghorns

SINGLE COMB WHITE LEGHORN COCK-erels from R.O.P. hens that have laid from 200 to 270 eggs, \$1.50 to \$5.00 each. R. L. Lovat, Bladworth, Sask. 42-2

SELLING—ROSE COMB BROWN LEGHORN cockerels, \$1.50. Alex. Diemer, Benton, Alta. 42-2

FOR SALE—THE BIG ENGLISH LEGHORNS, 300-egg strain stock. J. J. Funk, Winkler, Man. 42-5

Minorcas

PURE-BRED SINGLE COMB BLACK MINORCA hens, 75 cents. Peter Donnelly, Herbert, Sask. 42-2

Wyandottes

WHITE WYANDOTTES—EARLY HATCHED, Baron and Martin strains, cockerels, \$1.50 to \$3.00. P. J. Hoffmann, Anaheim, Sask. 41-5

Poultry Supplies

KILL THE LICE with Stanfield's Lice Kill—The vent. treatment. Guaranteed to kill every louse or mite refunded. 50-cent tube treats 200 birds, \$1.00 tube treats 500. Winnipeg Veterinary & Breeders' Supply Co. Ltd., Winnipeg, Man.

MOULTING HENS DON'T LAY EGGS. Shorten this lost time by giving your hens Pratt's Poultry Regulator. Starts them laying again quickly. Sold by all dealers. 42-3

Why Leave Your Turkeys on the Ridge Pole?

Sell Your Toms and Hens Now!

For several years past Turkey advertising in The Guide has commenced toward the end of October, and has grown in volume every week throughout November and December. This evidence in itself proves that it is the Big Advertising Season. Those anxious to dispose of their surplus stock should get their ad. in early. The Guide has always found buyers ready to snap up early offerings. Here's just one case—we have scores of others:

"Please discontinue my ad. as I am entirely sold out and will have to return a number of orders. My ad. has sold over \$300 worth of Mammoth Bronze Hens and Toms. This is my first attempt at advertising, and I am certainly delighted with the results."—Mrs. H. Elliott, Klabye, Sask.

We did it for her—We can do it for you

The season is also "right" for advertising Geese, Ducks, Cockerels, Pullets, Guinea, Pigs, Dogs and Foxes. Mrs. Elliott's testimonial proves that the first-time advertiser can get results as well as the more experienced. So take our advice and send us your ad. tonight—you'll never regret it.

THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE - WINNIPEG, MAN.

Farm Lands—Sell or Rent

FARM LANDS—35 YEARS TO PAY WITH free use of the land for one year and privilege of paying in full at any time. Farms on the fertile prairies or park lands of Western Canada can be purchased on the amortization plan. Seven per cent. of the purchase price cash; no further payment until the end of the second year; balance payable in 34 years, with interest at 6 per cent. No payment of principal and interest together exceeds 7 per cent. of the total cost of the farm. Write for full information to Canadian Pacific Railway Co., Dept. of Natural Resources, 922 1st St. East, Calgary. 27-5

FOR SALE (PART OF ESTATE LATE JOSIAH MYERS)—8 1/2 Sec. 21, Twp. 9, R. 1, W. 2, eight miles north Manor, Sask. Excellent for mixed farming; east quarter under cultivation, west quarter first-class pasture, but can be broken, all fenced. House 24 x 32 with addition 16 x 16, barn 64 x 36 with lean-to, blacksmith shop, granary 16 x 20, hen house, good well. Write Executors: N. L. Gray, Carlyle, Sask.; C. F. Cudmore, R.R. 1, Manor, Sask.; S. H. Myers, R.R. 1, Manor, Sask. 40-3

KAMLOOPS, BRITISH COLUMBIA, — FRUIT market gardening, near city, served by two main line railways. 3,000 acres of the most fertile irrigated land for sale in ten to 20-acre plots. Pleasant occupation, ideal climate. Write for particulars. Elsey and Stapley, Confederation Life Building, Winnipeg. 42-9

THE UNION TRUST COMPANY, WINNIPEG, have improved and unimproved farms for sale in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta. Very easy terms. Write for printed list. The Union Trust Company, Winnipeg. 32-9

BRITISH COLUMBIA FARMS—FULL PARTIC-ulars and price list of farms near Vancouver, together with maps, may be had on application to Pemberton & Son, Farm Specialists, 418 Howe St., Vancouver, B.C. 17-1

240 ACRES, 1 1/2 MILES FROM TOWN, 30 MILES from Winnipeg. All open prairie. Nice neighborhood. Pay interest and taxes only for five years and take possession at bargain price. Walch Land Co., Winnipeg, Man. 42-2

FARM FOR SALE—CHOICE, UNIMPROVED land, good crop district of Manitoba. No cash required first year. Box 11, Grain Growers' Guide, Winnipeg. 42-2

BACHELOR HAS GOOD HALF-SECTION, near progressive town, to sell or rent to reliable man who must have equipment or buy it from owner. Box 121, Central Butte, Sask. 42-2

SELL YOUR PROPERTY QUICKLY FOR CASH, no matter where located. Particulars free. Real Estate Salesman Co., Dept. 18, Lincoln, Nebr. 42-2

SELLING—FARM, WITH STOCK AND MA-chinery; good water; no crop failure. Price, write Box 114, Guernsey, Sask. 40-5

GOOD HALF-SECTION FOR RENT, GOOD buildings, good water, main line six miles. Box 56, Parkbe, Sask. 41-2

Farm Lands Wanted

LIKE TO HEAR OF GOOD CANADIAN FARM for sale, cash price, reasonable. R. McNow, 375 Wilkinson Hdg., Omaha, Neb. 36-9

WANTED—TO HEAR FROM OWNER OF FARM for sale. O. K. Hawley, Baldwin, Wis. 42-5

MACHINERY and AUTOS

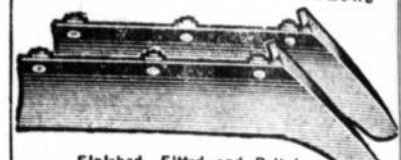
LINCOLN (OLD ABE) TWO-THREE-FURROW tractor plow, new, \$75 cash; eight H.P. Cushman engine, with water tank (used less than three months), guaranteed, excellent condition, \$240 cash; 15 H.P. Cushman engine, entirely overhauled, repainted, guaranteed excellent running order, \$400 cash; six-inch Cushman (Flury) grinder, new, \$35; eight-inch Cushman (Flury) grinder, new, \$40; three-quarter-inch Tunstun tractor plow, for Titan, two for \$100. Cushman Farm Equipment Co. Ltd., Winnipeg. 42-3

USED AND NEW MAGNETOS, CARBURETORS, wheels, springs, axles, winchshafts, glasses, tires, radiators, bodies, tops, cushions, bearings, gears all descriptions. We carry largest stock auto parts in Canada. Save yourself 25 to 80%. Parts for E.M.F., Overlands, Studebakers, Russell, Hupmobiles, many others. Complete Ford used and new parts. Out of town orders given prompt attention. Auto Wrecking Co., 271-3 Fort Street, Winnipeg. 42-3

DON'T IT SEEM FOOLISH TO TAKE OFF the wheels when you grease a wagon? The H and H greaser is fully guaranteed and does it better in an instant with one-tenth of the grease. Either loaded tanks, racks or empty wagons. At the local hardware, \$5.00 per wagon set, or postpaid from H and H., Box 80, Gull Lake, Sask. 41-5

MACHINERY and AUTOS

PLOW SHARES TO FIT ALL MAKES OF PLOWS



Finished, Fitted and Bolted for every make of plow.

Mr. Farmer, we sell to you direct at these prices. Freight or express is nothing to what we save you. We have shares in stock ready for quick shipment, to fit every make of plow. Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded.

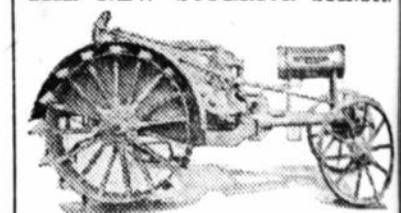
Give Number of Old Shares when ordering.

12-inch	13-inch	14-inch	16-inch	18-inch
Each	Each	Each	Each	Each
\$2.75	\$2.90	\$3.10	\$3.40	\$3.65

Send for our New Fall and Winter Catalogue 93.

MACLEOD'S LIMITED

THE NEW SUPERIOR STINSON



SUPERIOR OVER THEM ALL

WE are distributors for this real heavy duty farm tractor, 18-36 H.P., and Wallis 15-25 H.P. tractor.

Write for literature and mail order catalogue on tractor accessories and used parts for many makes of tractors.

TRACTOR SUPPLIES LTD.

47 Arthur St., Winnipeg. Phone A4041

USED AND NEW AUTO PARTS—ENGINES, magnetos, carburetors, gears, springs for every make car. The City Auto Wrecking Co., 70 Main Street, Winnipeg. 27-11

FOR SALE—ONE THREE H.P. FAIRBANKS Morse gasoline engine, in first-class condition, \$80 cash. Western Butchers' Supply Company, Box 211, Regina, Sask. 41-4

SELLING—15-30 McCormick-Deering Sawyer-Massey 28-inch separator, good condition, threshing present time, \$1,500, cash or terms. A. E. Ronaghan, Islay, Alta. 42-2

SELLING—15-30 HART-PARR TRACTOR, first-class running order. Fred Mawhinney, Oakville, Man. 41-4

FORDSON COMPLETE, EXTENSION RIMS, Oliver engine plow, 90% new, \$350 cash. A. C. Hultgren, Crossfield, Alta. 41-4

WANTED—IMPLEMENTS OR STOCK IN EX-change for town lots in Wilkie. J. J. Wurtz, Lacombe, Sask. 42-2

MAGNETO REPAIRING A SPECIALTY. Lemery-Denison, Saskatoon 38-13

CYLINDER GRINDING

WE REGRIND AUTOMOBILE AND TRACTOR cylinders on a Heald cylinder grinder. We also grind crankshafts on a Landis crankshaft grinder. This is the best equipment that money can buy, and we guarantee all our work. Riverside Iron Works Ltd., Calgary, Alberta.

CYLINDER REBORING AND HONING—SAME method as used by leading factories. General pistons fitted. Crankshafts turned. Moose Jaw, machine work. Reliance Machine Co., Moose Jaw, Sask. 35-13

CYLINDER GRINDING, TRACTOR, AUTO and engine repairs, welding. Pritchard Engineering Co. Ltd., 259 Fort Street, Winnipeg. 32-13

CYLINDER REBORING, OVERSIZE PISTONS and step-cut rims. General repairs. Romane Machine and Repair Co., Moose Jaw, Sask. 40-13

MISCELLANEOUS

Auto Tops and Trimmings

AUTO TOPS, SEAT COVERS, SIDE CURTAINS, radiator covers and repairing of all kinds. Quotation on request. Winnipeg Top and Trimming Co. Ltd., 780 Portage Ave., Winnipeg. 28-1

BULBS

FLOWERING BULBS—DIRECT IMPORTA-tions—Roman Hyacinths, Dutch Hyacinths (single and double), Narcissus or Daffodils (single and double), Tulips (single and double bedding, Crown Darwins), Easter Lilies, Chinese Lilies, Crocus, Scilla Siberica, etc. Write for bulb catalog, now ready, and 1925 spring seed catalog, ready 1st January. Steele, Briggs Seed Co. Limited, 191 Market Avenue, Winnipeg, Man. 29-4

COAL

SOURIS LIGNITE AND WESTERN ALBERTA coals. For prices write McLeod & Werry, Calgary, Coal Dealers, Estevan, Sask. 38-11

CLEAN COAL—WRITE FOR PRICES AND freight rates direct to New Walker Mine, Shearwater, Alta. 33-13

FOR COAL IN CAR LOTS, WRITE W. J. Anderson, Sheerness, Alta., miner and shipper of good quality of domestic coal.

DENTISTS

DR. IRWIN ROBB, DENTIST, 27 CANADA Life Bldg., Regina, Sask. Phone 3578. 16-42